



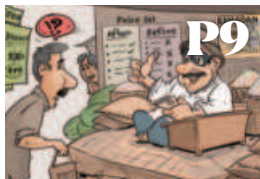
P3

**BNP's
Ishraque
sent to jail**



P7

**Pak SC to
rule on PM's
move today**



P9

**Not a month
to earn, but
to give**



B1

**Walton buys
3 European
brands**



A woman and a child sit under the shade of an umbrella on a boat on the Shibsa river near the Kalabogi Forest Station in Paschim Sundarban area. Residents of Kalabogi village in Khulna's Dacope upazila have to travel two kilometres to draw drinking water from the forest station's pond. Because of salinity in groundwater in such areas, there is a scarcity of drinking water. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

'We're cautious, no need to worry'

PM tells JS, ruling out possibility of economic crisis like in Sri Lanka



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday ruled out the possibility of an economic crisis like the one in Sri Lanka as the Bangladesh economy is in a sound state.

"The foundation of our economy is very strong... We are very cautious," she said, adding that Bangladesh is the 31st largest economy in the world.

The PM made the comments in her winding-up speech in the 17th session of the 11th Jatiya Sangsad, responding to remarks of GM Quader, the chief of Jatiya Party and deputy leader of the opposition.

The heavily import-reliant Sri Lanka no longer has enough foreign exchange reserves to buy essential items like food and fuel to power vehicles or generate electricity.

People have been suffering power cuts for up to 13 hours, massive inflation and a shortage of food and basic goods.

"The incidents in Sri Lanka are making us apprehensive... It was SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Padma bridge now to open by year-end

PM tells JS; officials blame delay in import of materials due to Russia-Ukraine war



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The wait for the completion of the Padma Bridge is set to prolong as the prime minister said yesterday that the bridge would be open to public by the end of the year.

This deadline is later than the ones put forward by top government officials and project authorities. They had earlier announced that the 6.15km bridge would be opened to traffic by June this year.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader reiterated the deadline as recently as Sunday.

But Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in a written answer during a question-answer session tabled in parliament yesterday, said: "Work is going on in full swing to open the Padma Bridge to traffic by the end of 2022."

Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam yesterday hinted that the delay in bringing some materials from European countries due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war could be a reason behind the change in deadline.

Besides, if the bridge is open to public in June this year, the railway authorities would not be able to start rail operations on the bridge simultaneously.

Installation of the railway track on the bridge has not till now started as the Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA), the implementing authority of the bridge, is yet to hand over the structure to Bangladesh Railway to start the work, project officials said.

Bangladesh Railway authorities now expect to start installation of the rail tracks on the bridge from July and hope that they would be ready to start rail operations on the Mawa-Bhanga section via Padma Bridge by December this year.

The plan to simultaneously commence operations of the rail and road services on the bridge could be another reason behind the change in the deadline, sources at BR said.

Once in service, the bridge will connect the capital with 21 southwestern districts by road and railway, providing relief to tens of thousands who often face hardships at two ferry terminals, which intensify ahead of major festivals.

The double-decker bridge – a four-lane road on the top and broad-gauge single rail track on the bottom – is expected to boost the country's gross domestic product by 1.2 percent.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Must not lose focus on macroeconomic stability

ADB advises Bangladesh to learn from Lankan meltdown

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Macroeconomic stability, fiscal and debt management, and domestic resource mobilisation are the major areas Bangladesh need to keep its focus on, Asian Development Bank officials said yesterday referring to what the country can learn from the ongoing economic crisis in Sri Lanka.

They noted that Bangladesh has so far managed these issues well.

The officials were addressing a virtual press conference on the occasion of the release of the ADB's annual flagship publication, "Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2022".

In its report, the ADB revised up the gross domestic product (GDP) forecast for Bangladesh this fiscal year to 6.9 percent from 6.8 percent.

In September last year, the ADB in its "Asian Development Outlook 2021 Update"

projected that the country's economy would grow by 6.8 percent.

In fiscal 2021, Bangladesh's GDP growth was 6.9 percent.

"GDP is projected to continue to grow strongly at 6.9 percent in FY22 on stepped-up budget spending,

a strong expansion in exports and slight improvement in agricultural output," it stated.

As per the projection for FY22, Bangladesh's GDP growth rate is the third highest among the South Asian countries. The Maldives sits at the top of the list with a growth rate of

| COUNTRY | GDP GROWTH IN FY2022 |
|------------|----------------------|
| Maldives | 11% |
| India | 7.50% |
| Bangladesh | 6.90% |
| Bhutan | 4.50% |
| Pakistan | 4% |
| Nepal | 3.90% |
| Sri Lanka | 2.40% |

11 percent, followed by India with 7.5 percent.

The projection for Bhutan is 4.5 percent, Pakistan 4 percent, Nepal 3.9 percent and for Sri Lanka 2.4 percent.

Addressing the conference, ADB Country Director Edimon Ginting

said Bangladesh's GDP growth will be close to the South Asian average growth of 7 percent in FY22.

Replying to a query on what Bangladesh should learn from the ongoing economic crisis in Sri Lanka, Ginting said that usually, crisis does not arise all of a sudden, it happens for following substandard policies one after another.

He noted that it's always good to look closely at policies and correct the incorrect ones as early as possible.

Referring to Bangladesh, the ADB country director said, "Debt management is very good here... I think the size of debt is not big, and most of the debt now is actually long-term and concessional in nature."

If debt is managed well, the risk will be lower, he pointed out.

Ginting also put emphasis on domestic resource mobilisation.

He further said that the country, which has a steady and large flow of revenue, will be more resilient to external shocks.

ADB Senior Economist Soon Chan Hong said the Russia-Ukraine conflict has heightened uncertainty and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Regain people's faith in polls

Journos tell EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People's trust in the Election Commission has eroded drastically because of its failure to hold the last two general elections in a free and fair manner, said senior journalists.

They also said that reviving the trust should be a priority for this EC.

The journalists were attending a dialogue with the commission at its conference room yesterday.

The EC is holding a series of dialogues with a cross section of people for their recommendations on how to hold free and fair polls. Yesterday's was the third round of the talks attended by editors and senior journalists of different newspapers.

The previous two ECs were criticised for holding "one-sided" polls in 2014 in which 153 MPs out of 300 were elected unopposed and for failing to check alleged ballot stuffing the night before the 2018 parliamentary polls.

Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal said they heard the opinions and recommendations of the journalists and would take them into consideration before preparing a roadmap to the next polls.

Jatiya Press Club President Farida Yasmin said bringing back people's confidence in the EC would be its first and toughest challenge.

"The Election Commission will be able to hold a good election if it can tackle political and other pressures with an iron hand," she said.

Daily Bhorer Kagoj Editor Shyamal Dutta said EC's reputation is now at its worst and reviving it will be the commission's main responsibility.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 7

Govt to ensure no excesses over DSA

FM Momen tells US panel discussion

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said there may have been some excesses while enforcing the Digital Security Act, but the government is now very careful to make sure the law is not misused.

He made the comments at a panel discussion organised by the Washington-based Centre for Strategic and International Studies on Tuesday, marking 50 years of the US-Bangladesh diplomatic ties.

Isobel Coleman, USAID deputy administrator for Policy and Programming,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

WE CONGRATULATE
OUR MANAGING DIRECTOR
MD. IMRANUR RAHMAN

LAILA GROUP

FIRST EVER BANGLADESHI TO BE APPOINTED AS THE VICE PRESIDENT OF FIFCO

FIFCO
Fédération Internationale de Football Corporatif

Evaly chairman out on bail

STAR REPORT

Six months after landing in jail in cases filed over allegations of embezzlement of customers' money, e-commerce platform Evaly's Chairman Shamima Nasrin walked out of jail yesterday.

She was released from Kashimpur Women's Central Jail in Gazipur on bail around 5:45pm, Senior Jail Superintendent Halima Khatun told The Daily Star.

A post from Evaly's verified Facebook page said its chairman got bail.

Shamima got bail in six cases over the last three months, court sources said.

On September 16 last year, Rab arrested Evaly CEO Mohammad Rassel and his wife during a raid at their home in the capital's Mohammadpur.

Later, five other embezzlement cases were filed against the couple with Dhanmondi Police Station as well as with courts.

In March last year, the central bank found that Evaly's dues were Tk 404 crore as of the middle of March that year, including Tk 214 crore liabilities to customers.

'FALSE CASE' Nazmul Huda charged for suing SK Sinha

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against former BNP minister Nazmul Huda in a case filed over the lodging of a fake case against former Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha.

Huda, now on bail, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after Judge Sheikh Hafizur Rahman of the Special Judge's Court-9 of Dhaka read out the charges to him, The Daily Star learnt from court officials present.

Earlier in the day, the judge dismissed a petition submitted for relieving him of the charges. The judge then fixed May 17 for starting the case's trial.

On November 1 last year, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Director Benjir Ahmed, also the investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet against the former minister.

Huda filed the case against Sinha with Shahbagh Police Station on September 27, 2018. He said Sinha had demanded a bribe from him for changing the judgement of a graft case that had already been disposed of.

The ACC found the allegations baseless and false after probing the case for one and a half years.

The national anti-graft watchdog submitted the final report on December 4 of 2019 absolving Sinha from the charges of the case.

ACC Director Syed Iqbal Hossain filed the case with its integrated district office in Dhaka on February 19, 2020.



Locals repairing an embankment in Kalnar haor in Sunamganj on Tuesday. Many such embankments in the district have been damaged by flash floods recently and locals in some areas have taken it upon themselves to do repair work in order to protect their properties.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

FLASH FLOODS HIT HAOR REGION

Desperate farmers try to save half-ripe crops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The government invests a significant amount of public money to construct and repair levees in the haor areas of the country's north-eastern districts to protect the Boro harvest from the flash floods.

However, the farmers in the region suffer for years because of the poor quality work.

On Friday, the flash flood hit the districts -- Sunamganj, Netrokona, Kishoreganj and Sylhet -- and the levees started cracking and breaking apart.

As a result, vast cropland in the region that was left unprotected by the levees started flooding fast.

The situation is intense in Sunamganj.

Some 520km levees were constructed and repaired spending Tk 120 crore to protect Boro harvest in 222,850 hectares of land.

On Tuesday, Dharmapasha upazila's levees at Chandra Shonar Thal haor, Gurnar haor and Sonamorol haor broke.

Two other dykes in Shalla upazila -- on Koiyarbon haor and Putia haor -- were also damaged.

Meanwhile, more than 100 dykes were cracked during this time, claimed rights activists citing farmers.

However, the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) in Sunamganj could not give any data on how many dykes cracked or broke because of flash floods.

Jahurul Islam, executive engineer of Sunamganj

BWDB, said, "We are not counting the damaged levees but focusing on holding up the floodwater as much as possible. Locals are helping us voluntarily to protect the levees."

To protect the dykes, thousands of farmers from all levee-adjacent areas have been passing hard times holding up the levees with mud, bamboo and other materials.

Abul Hossain, farmer of Kauhani village in Madhyanaga upazila, said, "We are passing restless days and nights on the levees so that we could save our harvest."

Meanwhile, Haor Bachao Andolon, a rights organisation, arranged a procession in Sunamganj town protesting against corruption, anomalies and negligence in the construction of the levees.

Later they submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister via Sunamganj's deputy commissioner's office demanding punishment for those involved.

Zahangir Hossain, deputy commissioner of Sunamganj and president of the district committee for constructing levees, declared forming a probe body to investigate the alleged corruption and anomalies.

During a visit to Chandra Shonar Thal haor in Dharmapasha, he told journalists that no matter who was responsible for the low-quality works at the levees, legal actions would be taken against them if found guilty in the probe.

Zila Parishad bill passed with provision for administrator

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Zila Parishad (amendment) Bill 2022 was passed in parliament with a provision to appoint an administrator in the local government body.

BNP and Jatiya Party MPs strongly opposed the bill, saying the provision was contradictory to the constitution.

It is a bid to appoint local Awami League leaders as the administrators, they said, demanding that the bill be withdrawn.

According to the bill, zila parishad chairmen and members will not hold on to the posts once the five-year tenure is over. Then the government would appoint an administrator to run the local body until the formation of the next parishad.

The administrator will get a 180-day tenure and one person cannot be an administrator more than once.

Small trader hacked to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A 30-year-old scrap metal trader was hacked to death in Fatullah, Narayanganj, yesterday afternoon.

Muhammad Shamim, 30, of Paragaon area of Munshiganj, was killed over a business rivalry, police said, adding that they detained two suspects of the murder.

A local tea stall owner said he saw 14-15 men attack Shamim with sharp weapons.

"I tried to stop them and got injured," he added.

Arif Pathan, sub-inspector at Fatullah Model Police Station, said police were looking for the suspects.

Rohingya man arrested with Tk 11 lakh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Police in Cox's Bazar arrested a Rohingya man with Tk 11 lakh during a raid on Kutupalong refugee camp on Tuesday night.

Officers said the arrestee, Kamal Hossain, 40, could be involved in money laundering.

Captain Naimul Haque of the Armed Police Battalion said, "He failed to answer our questions during interrogation. We filed a case against him with the Ukhia Police Station."

US approves \$95m sale of missile defense support to Taiwan

AFP, Washington

The US announced Tuesday it has approved the sale of up to \$95 million worth of training and equipment to support Taiwan's Patriot missile defense system, something Taipei said would help protect the island from any invasion by China.

"The proposed sale will help to sustain (Taiwan's) missile density and ensure readiness for air operations," the Pentagon's Defense Security Cooperation Agency said in a statement.

Must not lose

FROM PAGE 1

unsettled commodity markets.

He said they think the direct impact of the war would be limited for Bangladesh, which doesn't have that much trade with Russia and Ukraine as of now.

The economist, however, hinted that the indirect impact of the war would be high for Bangladesh.

In terms of export, Europe is one of the important markets for Bangladesh. If the war lingers on, the global

economy, especially the Eastern European economy, will be hit hard, and Bangladesh will be affected as a result of that, he noted.

Oil, gas and commodity prices will continue to rise if the war goes on for long, he said.

Hong, however, said, "As of now, it is quite difficult to say... The war is raging on and we are seeing developments every day."

The ADB would monitor the situation and assess its impact on Bangladesh, he added.

Govt to ensure

FROM PAGE 1

was a co-panelist.

Momen is now visiting the US, where he held bilateral meetings with his US counterpart Antony Blinken and USAID Administrator Samantha Power. He also took part in discussions organised by Washington-based think tanks.

At Tuesday's discussion, he said people in Bangladesh have been using social media freely, but sometimes some of them spread hatred and seek to incite violence, for which the DSA was framed.

"You cannot put up anything that incites violence... Some individuals spread rumours. However, there are concerns that there may have been some excesses and we agree.

"Our law ministry has taken a strong position in this regard."

He said the Bangladesh media is completely free.

Isobel said the space for democracy in the civil society is a critically important issue and USAID has shared its concerns in this regard.

Padma bridge now to open by year-end

FROM PAGE 1

BR is implementing a Tk 39,246.79 crore Padma Bridge Rail Link Project to build a 169-km rail line from Dhaka to Jashore through the Padma bridge.

CHANGE IN DEADLINE

Although the fast-track project was approved in August 2007, physical work started only in November 2014 mainly due to complications over funding before the government decided to implement the project with its own funds.

After several revisions, the deadline of the project was set to June 2023, including a one-year defect liability period, and the

cost rose to Tk 30,193 crore from the original Tk 10,161 crore.

On December 10, 2020, when the last span of Padma Bridge was installed, Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam had said the bridge would be opened to the public by June 2022.

Obaidul Quader reiterated the deadline on several occasions and on Sunday, after a meeting over the progress of the project, his ministry reconfirmed the deadline in a press release.

The overall progress of the project was 92 percent -- 97 percent in the main

bridge and 90.5 percent in river training works, read the press release. The progress of the carpeting work was 65.68 percent.

The meeting was attended, among others, by the cabinet secretary, who earlier had a long tenure as bridge division secretary.

Asked about the prime minister's speech, the cabinet secretary after yesterday's weekly cabinet meeting told reporters, "The original deadline of the project is December 2022. We are trying... I will talk with her [PM]."

He said there is logic behind her speech as the project authorities are

facing problems to bring some materials from European countries due to the Ukraine War.

Project sources said aluminium railing for the bridge was supposed to come from a UK factory but it was closed for around two years due to Covid.

"But when the materials were ready for shipment, no ship was found to bring those due to the Ukraine war. The materials were supposed to come within March but the shipment started from UK on March 26. It will take 45 days to reach Bangladesh," said one of the project officials, wishing not to be named.

Regain people's faith

FROM PAGE 1

He claimed Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen requested the US to take steps for bringing the BNP back into elections. "It is a matter of shame that such a request was made to the US ... It is the commission's job to earn the confidence of all political parties."

Daily Ittefaq Editor Tasmina Hossain proposed a staggered national election, saying that such an important election should take place division-wise following a reshuffle in the administration.

New Age Editor Nurul Kabir said people lacked confidence in the Search Committee that recommended the names to the president for appointing the current CEC and other commissioners. "You [EC] will have to work to bring that confidence back."

Daily Samakal Advisory Editor Abu Sayeed Khan said it would be better for the EC to avoid EVMs in the polls.

Daily Prothom Alo's Associate Editor Anisul Hoque said local government and other elections would be a litmus test for the EC before the next Jatiya Sangsad polls.

Daily Jugantor Editor Saiful Alam said it should be ensured that the administration and law enforcers cannot influence the EC during any elections.

Daily Samakal acting editor Muzzammil Husain said journalists are often harassed when they cover polls, so the "highest level of access" of the media

must be ensured during polls.

Daily Observer Editor Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury said creating political consensus is not the duty of the EC. "It should rather create an environment in which a political party will feel that it will fall behind other parties if it does not take part in an election."

Business Standard Editor Inam Ahmed said different laws are used to tie up the media during election time. Whether these laws can be relaxed during that period should come under consideration, he said.

Daily Ajker Patrika Editor Golam Rahman, columnists Ajay Dasgupta, Bhibhu Ranjan Sarkar, Daily Jugantor Senior Assistant Editor Mahbub Kamal, among others, spoke at the programme.

The Daily Star Executive Editor Syed Ashfaqul Haque, four election commissioners, and top officials of the EC Secretariat also attended the talks.

Tunisia hits back at Erdogan 'interference'

AFP, Tunis

Tunisia has summoned Turkey's ambassador in protest against "interference", the foreign ministry said yesterday, after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan criticised his counterpart in Tunis for dissolving the country's parliament.

DIARRHOEA CASES

57 admitted to icddr,b every hour in a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of diarrhoea patients have continued to rise at the International Center for Diarrheal Disease (icddr,b).

As many as four diarrhoea patients have been admitted in every five minutes in the past 13 hours till 1:00pm yesterday, according to the icddr,b data.

As many as 1,379 diarrhoea patients were admitted to icddr,b in 24 hours (till 12:00am yesterday). That means, 57 patients on average were admitted to icddr,b every hour.

Meanwhile, health officials said the number of patients is not as high in other hospitals as icddr,b.

“In March, about 170,237 diarrhoea patients were admitted to hospitals across the country,” said Dr Nazmul Islam, director of the Center for Disease Control at the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), yesterday.

“This number was 184,462 during the same month last year. So, the number’s as usual,” he added.

During the first three months this year, a total of 4,61,611 diarrhoea patients were admitted to the hospitals countrywide.

The number was 4,97,331 for the same time period last year, according to DGHS data.

Dhaka had the highest 103,321 diarrhoea patients from January to March while Barishal had the lowest – 11,703 patients.



This photojournalist met Saleha Begum and her four children at icddr,b on Monday. The entire family was suffering from diarrhoea and receiving treatment at the facility. Yesterday, after being relieved from their peril, the family returned home in Mirpur’s Kazipara in an auto-rickshaw in the afternoon. This photo was taken in front of the centre’s gate in Mohakhali.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

DU entry exams likely from June 3
Proposes deans’ committee

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Deans’ Committee of Dhaka University yesterday recommended holding honour’s admission test for the academic session 2021-2022 from June 3.

The minimum eligibility for applying for the admission test has been lowered. The date was decided at a meeting with DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Md Akhtaruzzaman in the chair.

The final decision in this regard will be taken at a meeting of the General Admission Committee today, said Pro-VC (academic) Prof ASM Maksud Kamal.

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MJF lauds the govt for placing anti-discrimination bill in JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) yesterday congratulated the government for placing the much anticipated anti-discrimination bill in the Jatiya Sangsad, which aims to ensure dignity and equal rights to every citizen of the country.

In a statement, MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam said, “We are very hopeful with the draft copy of the anti-discrimination law being placed in the Jatiya Sangsad.”

“The law will be a powerful tool to ensure marginalised people’s rights and uphold their dignity.”

The draft law has been prepared in light of Articles 27, 28 and 29 of the country’s constitution.

Law Minister Anisul Huq placed the “Anti-Discrimination Bill 2022” before the national parliament on Tuesday.

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PRAYER

TIMING

APRIL 7

| Fazr | Zohr | Asr | Maghrib | Esha |
|-------------|-------|------|---------|------|
| AZAN 4:28 | 12:45 | 4:45 | 6:21 | 7:45 |
| JAMAAT 4:38 | 1:15 | 5:00 | 6:31 | 8:15 |

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEHRI, IF TAR TIMING

| RAMADAN | APRIL | SEHRI | IFTAR |
|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| 5 | 7 | | 6:21 |
| 6 | 8 | 4:22 | 6:21 |
| 7 | 9 | 4:21 | 6:21 |

Borrowing money to get easier

Cabinet approves act in principle that allows moveable properties as collateral for loans



From now on, moveable properties could also be produced as collateral. Even private cars can be mortgaged for loans. The bank will provide loans after examining the model number, value, loan tenure and its depreciation value.

Khandker Anwarul Islam
Cabinet Secretary

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

A borrower will no longer need to depend on immovable properties to get a bank loan, with the government moving to ease the lending system by allowing moveable properties – such as savings certificates, fixed deposits, copyrights or even agricultural production – to be used as collateral too.

Financial Institutions Division (FID) presented the Secured Transaction (Moveable Property) Act, 2022 with these provisions at a cabinet meeting held at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who chaired the meeting, approved the act in principle.

“It will increase credit flow in the market and reduce conflict between borrowers and lenders regarding collateral,” said Prof Md Main Uddin, chair of the banking and insurance department at Dhaka University.

“The conflicts can be resolved through this act. However, banks need to increase their inspection to prevent loan forgery and defaults,” he added.

Executive Director of Policy Research Institute Ahsan H Mansur said, “It will turn out to be a good move if insurance is added to mitigate risks.”

Later in a briefing, cabinet secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam said, “From now on, moveable properties could also be produced as collateral.”

“Even private cars can be mortgaged for loans. The bank will provide loans after examining the model number, value, loan tenure and its depreciation value,” said the cabinet secretary.

“The cabinet has discussed the matter at length,” he added.

Pointing out the act’s purpose, Anwarul said many small and medium entrepreneurs cannot show fixed properties as collateral. They will be able to avail loans by mortgaging any kind of moveable property.

“It will definitely increase investment,” he added.

Replying to a query about many banks already giving loans against such collateral, the cabinet secretary said this practice will be brought under a legal framework through the act.

“If the bank does fair appraisals, chances of forgery will reduce,” said Anwarul, when asked about possibilities of forgery.

The cabinet yesterday also approved the drafts of Government Primary School Teacher Welfare Trust Act, 2022 and National Employment Policy 2022, and approved in principle Bangladesh Nuclear Energy Commission (Revised) Act, 2022.

The cabinet secretary said the Government Primary School Teacher Welfare Trust will be an autonomous body run by 21 members.

The trust will have a separate fund, which will be deposited into a scheduled bank.

BNP’s Ishraque sent to jail in arson case

4 hurt as activists clash with cops

COURT CORRESPONDENT

BNP leader and former mayoral candidate of Dhaka South City Corporation, Ishraque Hossain, was sent to jail yesterday after a Dhaka court rejected his bail petition in an arson case.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Tamanna Farah



passed the order after police produced Ishraque before the court with a forwarding report in which they appealed to confine him to jail.

Meanwhile, BNP leaders and activists clashed with police at Roy Saheb Bazar intersection in Old Dhaka around 2:30pm, demanding release of Ishraque while he was being taken to Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj, said witnesses.

Mahbubur Rahman, of Kotwali Police Station, told The Daily Star, “BNP men attacked the police prison van which was carrying Ishraque.”

When law enforcers went to calm them down, they clashed with police, leaving four police personnel injured, he said.

OC Mizanur Rahman of the police station, said five BNP men were detained

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

AKHAURA-AGARTALA LINK
A series of never-ending delays
Rail minister, Indian high commissioner disappointed

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The Akhaura-Agartala Rail Link, a Bangladesh Railway (BR) project, was supposed to be completed within December 2018.

Although more than two and a half years since the estimated deadline has passed, the project witnessed only 53 percent progress till February this year.

The project authority has sought another year to complete it, with the current deadline expiring in June this year.

Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan and Indian High Commissioner Vikram Kumar Doraiswami have expressed their disappointment over the slow progress of the project, which is being implemented with an Indian grant.

Both the minister and high commissioner are expected to visit the site in Brahmanbaria today to draw the next work plan for salvaging the project, said BR sources.

Both the minister and the high commissioner are expected to visit the site in Brahmanbaria today to draw the next work plan for salvaging the project.

Sources also said top officials of the ministry, BR and project will be accompanying them.

The Ecnee approved the project in August 2016 to improve rail connectivity and boost trade between Bangladesh and India.

Under the Tk 477.8 crore project, a 14.26km dual gauge rail line has been planned to be constructed to open a new interchange between Bangladesh’s Akhaura and Agartala in India’s Tripura.

The rail link is expected to open up markets of India’s north-eastern states for Bangladesh, enhance smooth transportation of goods, facilitate people to people contact and reduce transport cost and time. However, the project has seen delays since the very beginning.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Traffic jam is a condition so perpetual in Dhaka that it has become a characteristic by which the city is recognised. Despite causing peril and productivity loss for commuters, authorities seem to have taken the issue for granted, as no significant effort has been made to solve the problem. This photo was taken on Saat Masjid Road in Dhanmondi yesterday noon.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Even upazilas will have traffic jams if AL stays in power

LGRD minister tells parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



There will be traffic jams even at the upazila level if Awami League remains in power for another five-year term, LGRD Minister Md Tazul Islam told parliament yesterday.

The minister came up with the remarks in response to criticism of BNP MP Harunur Rashid over unbearable traffic jams in Dhaka.

Participating in the discussion centring Zila Parishad (Amendment) Bill 2022, Harun said, “Dhaka has come to a

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Empower children to ensure climate justice: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Children and youth affected by climate change induced disasters are the future agents who will ensure climate justice for the world, said speakers at an event yesterday.

The event titled “Climate Change, Children and Violence” was hosted by Unicef, World Vision and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) at a Dhaka hotel.

Suresh Bartlett, national director of World Vision Bangladesh, said violence against children and climate change are inextricably linked. “Our generation and governments have probably failed in many respects in addressing the fundamental issues of climate change and justice,” he said.

“Probably, we’re failing to address the violence against children as well. We must come together to double down on our efforts in order to address both the issues.”

Sheldon Yett, Unicef representative to Bangladesh, said children are at the frontline of the climate crisis.

“The most vulnerable are forced into overcrowded city slums, where they often take on hazardous work to survive and are at greater risk of child marriage and sex work,” he added.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bangladesh

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Empower children

FROM PAGE 3
Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela), said policy makers must listen to the voice of youth and children to bring about a change.
“They are the most vulnerable yet most ignored in the climate change discourse,” she added.
Raquibul Amin, country director of IUCN Bangladesh, said, “The impact of climate change is different for children and youth. It’s urgent to understand that difference.”
“Linking children

and youth with the older generations to transfer intergenerational knowledge is crucial,” he said.
Among others, Toufik Khan from Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD); Md Alamgir Kabir, Mohammad Shah Alam and Matalie McCauley from Unicef; Sofia Canovas from UNFPA; Syed Tamjid Ur Rahman from Winrock; Dora Platevic from USAID Bangladesh; Jahin Shams Sakkar from Uttaran and Jose Amaya from Gildan Activewear Inc also spoke at the event.

MJF lauds the govt

FROM PAGE 3
Later, the bill was sent to the parliamentary committee on law ministry for scrutiny.
The committee has been asked to submit a report on the bill within 30 days.
MJF said it has been involved in preparing the draft copy of the law since 2008.
Back then, MJF, along with different other rights groups, ran a campaign for about two years across the country in favour of the law.
The rights organisation has been working for different marginalised groups, including persons with disabilities, dalits, harijans, indigenous peoples of both hills and plains, the transgender community, the landless and sex workers for 19

years.
The group has also been advocating in favour of addressing discrimination of all types against all marginalised communities in the bill.
National Human Rights Commission primarily raised the issue of preparing a draft law in this regard. In 2013, a draft copy of the law was submitted to the then law minister.

DU entry

FROM PAGE 3
According to multiple sources, the committee proposed holding admission test of “Ga” unit on June 3, “Kha” unit on June 4, and “Ka” and “Gha” units on June 10 and 11 respectively.



The Daily Star and International Hope School Bangladesh signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the school's Uttara campus in Dhaka on Tuesday. AZM Kamrul Ahsan, head of section at the school; and Ahmed Shagor, assistant manager (strategy planning) of the newspaper, were the signatories. Under the MoU, copies of the national daily will be distributed among meritorious students of the educational institution. Akib Hasan Srabon and Mehedi Hasan from The Daily Star were also present at the ceremony.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় জাদুঘর
শাহবাগ, ঢাকা-১০০০
টেকার নং-১১/২০২১-২০২২ তারিখঃ ০৬/০৪/২০২২খ্রিঃ

আউটসোর্সিং ফর্ম/প্রতিষ্ঠান নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি
বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় জাদুঘরের কয়েকটি পদের সেবা আউটসোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে গ্রহণের নিমিত্ত প্রতিষ্ঠিত যোগ্য/প্রকৃত জনবল সরবরাহকারী অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠান/ফর্ম-এর নিকট থেকে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির বিস্তারিত তথ্যাদিসহ দরপত্র দলিল (সিডিউল) বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় জাদুঘরের নিজস্ব ওয়েবসাইট URL.www.bangladeshmuseum.gov.bd থেকে বিনামূল্যে ডাউনলোড করা যাবে। এই দরপত্র দলিলের শর্তানুযায়ী আপাদী ০৯/০৪/২০২২ থেকে ২৫/০৪/২০২২ তারিখ সকাল ০৯.০০টা থেকে বেলা ০৩.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে এবং সর্বশেষ ২৬/০৪/২০২২ তারিখ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় জাদুঘরে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাল্ডে দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন/সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা ত্রয়কারী সংরক্ষণ করেন।

গাজী মোঃ শওালি-উল-হক
সচিব (মুদ্রা-সচিব)
বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় জাদুঘর
ফোনঃ ০২-২২৩৩৬৪৭৯৬

জিডি-৬৭৯

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INVITATION FOR TENDER

Pubali Bank Limited, the largest online commercial Bank in Bangladesh is hereby inviting sealed Tenders from the eligible Tenderers, who can participate of the following tender, as defined in the tender documents of the under mentioned work as per terms & conditions stated below:

1. **Rate fixation for supply, installation & commissioning of Air Coolers at our different Uposhakhas / Branches / Regional Offices of our Bank.**

Please visit our web site, <https://www.pubalibangla.com/tender.asp> for details. Interested Parties may purchase the Tender document by 13 April, 2022 duly filled up all requirements and submit their offer by 17 April, 2022 (before 11.00 AM). Tender will be opened on same day at 11.30 A.M.

Dilip Kumar Paul
General Manager & Division Head
পূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
PUBALI BANK LIMITED
Establishment Division
Head office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka.

BNP's Ishraque

FROM PAGE 3
from the spot. According to prosecution, a group of leaders led by Ishraque gathered in front of Bangladesh Bank Colony with an intention to carry out subversive activities in Motijheel on November 12, 2020.
Later, a case under the Special Powers Act was filed against Ishraque and 31 others with Motijheel Police Station.

Tk 100cr

FROM PAGE 5
get the allocation.” CDA did not comment on the request. CDA Chairman Zahirul Alam Dobhas expressed hope that this time the waterlogging problem will not be like that in the past years.
Project director of the mega project to address waterlogging Lt Col Shah Ali said, “We will be able to work till the coming monsoon, until this April.”

INVITATION FOR TENDER

| | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Name of Procuring Entity | Summit LNG Terminal Co. (Pvt.) Ltd. |
| 2. | Invitation for | Procurement of customized LNG Terminal QHSE software |
| 3. | Tender Ref No. & Date: | SLTCPL/RFQ/09/04-04, Date: 4 th April 2022 |
| 4. | Procurement Method | Open Tendering Method (two envelope tendering procedure) |
| 5. | Tender closing Date and Time | 22 nd April 2022 at 12:00 PM (Bangladesh Standard Time) |
| 6. | Name and Address where to submit the Tender | Terminal Manager (Current Charge), Summit LNG Terminal Co. (Pvt.) Ltd. Summit Centre, 5 th Floor 18, Karwan Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215 |
| 7. | Description of Goods/Services | <p>The purpose of this Invitation for Tender (IFT) is to seek proposals from software companies and their certified implementors to provide planning, design, development and support of a Quality, health & safety management system, incidents, accident reporting software and database.</p> <p>It is expected of the vendor to provide support throughout the implementation and operation process, as well as continued basic technical support. The chosen software solution shall be of standards that meet the International organizational needs today and, in the future.</p> <p>The software shall have adequate reporting mechanism with ability to integration with Microsoft powerBI and be able to communicate among all modules and export features as required. The software shall enable user creation, user level and access control. The code language shall be MySql, JAVA or PHP (Machine independent language) and the database shall be MySql. Database software shall have a cloud server, and service provider shall provide hosting agreement.</p> |
| 8. | Detailed specification | https://summitbangladesh.sharepoint.com/:b/g/EUu12XB6c2HEJRJU9-1228qQB79oiqe2Qqd_xrTMHTdAbIlg?e=2TfqUu |
| 9. | Experience | Minimum 3 (Three) years' experience in the LNG or similar industry. |

Solidaridad
Network Asia

Invitation for National Open Tender

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited from the eligible tenderers for the following tender as defined in the tender documents of mentioned items as per terms and conditions stated below.

| | |
|--|---|
| Project Name | Promoting Safe Uses of Chemicals in Bangladesh Leather Industry |
| Invitation reference No | SNA/DAC/PR/03.22.117 |
| Prerequisite of Tenderer | The tenderer must submit the updated Trade Licence, BIN,TIN,VAT registration certificate. The tenderer must submit the updated bank solvency certificate in favor of specific organization/vendor name. The tenderer must submit related previous work experience document. |
| Invitation to Tender for the Provision of (Group-A ,B,C & D) | Group-A Protective apron for mid-management and general workers and wet end workers Group-B Chemical safety mask for chemical store use Group-C Chemical resistant hand gloves Group-D Chemical resistant safety shoes (boots) |
| Date, Time & Place for Collecting Tender Documents | From 7th April-2022 to 18 th April 2022, tender schedule available from 10 AM to 4.30 PM at Apartment # A1, Merrydale, 1st Floor, House # 32, Road # 10A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209 |
| Tender Closing Date and Time | 19th April 2022 at 4.30 PM |
| Tender Opening Date & Time & Place | Tender will be opened on 20th April 2022 at 3.00 PM, at Apartment # A1, Merrydale, 1st Floor, House # 32, Road # 10A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209 |
| Others Terms and Conditions | The tenderers can participate in single or multiple groups and all items should be included as per group The Solidaridad shall reserve the right to accept or cancel the tender schedule at any time without prior notice. |

Muhammad Shakil Anwar
Country Operation Officer

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ প্রতিযোগিতা কমিশন
৩৭/৩/এ, ইন্সটন গার্ডেন, রমনা, ঢাকা
www.ccb.gov.bd

আসবাবপত্র ও কম্পিউটার সামগ্রী ক্রয় সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নং-২৬.১২.০০০০.১০৪.০৭.০০৯.২২-৩১৮ তারিখঃ ০৫-০৪-২০২২খ্রিঃ

| | | | |
|-----|--|---|---|
| ১. | মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ | : | বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়। |
| ২. | এজেন্সি/সংগ্ৰাহক স্বত্বার নাম/জেলা | : | বাংলাদেশ প্রতিযোগিতা কমিশন, ঢাকা। |
| ৩. | যে কাজের জন্য দরপত্র | : | দরপত্র সিডিউলে বর্ণিত শর্তাদি সাপেক্ষে বাংলাদেশ প্রতিযোগিতা কমিশনের জন্য লট-১ঃ আসবাবপত্র ক্রয়/সংগ্রহ লট-২ঃ কম্পিউটার সামগ্রী ক্রয়/সংগ্রহ |
| ৪. | সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি | : | উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM) |
| ৫. | বাজেট ও অর্থের উৎস | : | নিজস্ব তহবিল। |
| ৬. | দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ | : | ০৭/০৪/২০২২খ্রিঃ |
| ৭. | দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় | : | ১১/০৫/২০২২খ্রিঃ বিকাল ০৫:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত |
| ৮. | দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় | : | ১৮/০৫/২০২২খ্রিঃ দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত |
| ৯. | দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান | : | ১৮/০৫/২০২২খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২:৩০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্রদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন), বাংলাদেশ প্রতিযোগিতা কমিশন কার্যালয়, বোরাক টাওয়ার (৬ষ্ঠ তলা), ৩৭/৩/এ, ইন্সটন গার্ডেন, রমনা, ঢাকা। |
| ১০. | দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের স্থান/দপ্তর | : | বাংলাদেশ প্রতিযোগিতা কমিশন কার্যালয়, বোরাক টাওয়ার (৬ষ্ঠ তলা), ৩৭/৩/এ, ইন্সটন গার্ডেন, রমনা, ঢাকা। |
| ১১. | দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান | : | ১। বাংলাদেশ প্রতিযোগিতা কমিশন কার্যালয়, বোরাক টাওয়ার (৬ষ্ঠ তলা), ৩৭/৩/এ, ইন্সটন গার্ডেন, রমনা, ঢাকা; এবং ২। বিভাগীয় কমিশনারের কার্যালয়, প্রথম ১২ তলা সরকারি অফিস ভবন, ২য় তলা, সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা। |
| ১২. | প্রতি লটের দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য | : | ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য)। |
| ১৩. | দরপত্রের নিরাপত্তা জামানত | : | প্রতি লটের দরপত্রের সাথে দরপত্র জামানত হিসেবে যে কোন বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংক হতে ২৫,০০০/- (পঁচিশ হাজার) টাকার ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে অর্ডার ‘বাংলাদেশ প্রতিযোগিতা কমিশন’ এর অনুকূলে দাখিল করতে হবে। |
| ১৪. | দরপত্রের যোগ্যতা ও প্রয়োজনীয় দলিলাদি | : | দরদাতাকে প্রকৃত মালিক/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে হবে এবং দরপত্রের সাথে (ক) হালনাগাদ বৈধ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স; (খ) VAT ও TIN সার্টিফিকেট এর সত্যায়িত কপি; (গ) হালনাগাদ ভ্যাট ও আরকর পরিশোধের প্রত্যয়নপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি এবং (ঘ) ব্যাংক কর্তৃক আর্থিক সক্ষমতার প্রত্যয়নপত্র সংযুক্ত করতে হবে। |
| ১৫. | দরপত্র আহবানকারীর/যোগাযোগের ঠিকানা | : | সচিব, বাংলাদেশ প্রতিযোগিতা কমিশন কার্যালয়, বোরাক টাওয়ার (৬ষ্ঠ তলা), ৩৭/৩/এ, ইন্সটন গার্ডেন, রমনা, ঢাকা, ফোন নম্বর: ০২-৫৮৩১৫৪৮৫. |
| ১৬. | বিশেষ দৃষ্টব্য | : | (ক) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। (খ) দরপত্র সিডিউলে দর অংকে ও কথায় লিখিতে হইবে। কাটাকাটি ঘমামাঞ্জা ও ভুতার রাইটিং হইলে দরপত্র বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে। (গ) দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য সকল তথ্য দরপত্র সংগ্রহকালে কমিশন কার্যালয় হইতে জানা যাইবে। |

মোঃ আব্দুস সবুর
উপসচিব
সচিব, বাংলাদেশ প্রতিযোগিতা কমিশন, ঢাকা

জিডি-৬৭৬

Mother, son killed as bus hits roadside tree

STAR REPORT

Three people -- including a mother and her son -- were killed and 20 others injured when a bus hit a roadside tree in Manikganj yesterday afternoon.

The accident happened as its driver lost his control over the steering on Dhaka-Aricha highway in Muljan area, said police.

Md Hafizul (35) from Nishchintapur village in Nagarpur, Tangail, and his mother Hasna Begum (60) died on the spot. Identity of the other deceased could not be known immediately.

Manikganj Sadar Police Station OC Abdur Rauf Sarkar said the injured were admitted to a hospital.

"The bus was seized. The driver and his assistant fled," he said.

Meanwhile in Tangail, a teenager was killed when a truck hit his motorcycle at Kalianpara in Sakhipur upazila yesterday. The deceased -- Kawsar Ahmed (16), son of Belu Miah from Kalianpara village -- was a tenth grader at Kalianpara High School in Sakhipur.

He died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said police.



Fire service officials and law enforcers continue rescue operation after this bus hit a roadside tree yesterday afternoon, killing three people and injuring 20. The accident happened as the driver lost control over the steering on Dhaka-Aricha highway in Muljan area.

PHOTO: STAR

Tk 100cr to clean drains, canals

Demands CCC mayor

Rezaul from CDA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg



Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) Mayor Rezaul Karim Chowdhury yesterday demanded Tk 100 crore from Chattogram Development Authority's ongoing mega project to clean the city's canals before monsoon.

The mayor made the demand while addressing a coordination meeting, organised by CCC and CDA, on the progress of the mega project initiated by CDA to address the port city's waterlogging problems.

The meeting was held at the conference room of CCC in Tiger Pass area.

The mayor said some of the major works of the project have been done by CDA, and 34 brigades of army engineering core. Under this project, several drains have been constructed in different city wards, but CCC has no allocation of money for cleaning and maintaining those.

"If CDA cannot make any allocation for the cleaning of canals, then there will be no way for us but to go to the local government ministry to

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Satkhira
Tel No. 02477740096
ee_satkh@pwd.gov.bd
www.pwd.gov.bd

Memo No. 25.36.8700.140.14.045.2022/1529

Dated: 05/04/2022

e-Tender Corrigendum Notice

Following amendments of published e-Tender was done in e-GP System (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) Portal.

| S/N | e-Tender ID, Reference No. | Package description |
|-----|--------------------------------------|---|
| 01. | 671907/25.36.8700.140.14.050.22/1379 | Construction of Office cum Training Centre (Civil, Sanitary, Ancillary & Electro-Mechanical Works) 01 (One) at Satkhira District under the project "Enhancement of Agricultural Marketing Department" |

| Item No. | Previous | Now |
|---|---|--|
| Part-A: Main Building (Civil Works) SI No. 102 | Supplying, fitting and fixing 38 mm thick well matured seasoned (minimum 250 mm wide plank) solid wood single leaf door shutter having top rail style of sections 100 mm x 38 mm, lock rail 125 mm x 38 mm and bottom rail 225 mm x 38 mm. Closed joints with 25 mm x 12 mm size wooden peg and provided with best quality 4 (four) Nos. 100 mm iron hinges, 2 (two) Nos. best quality 12 mm dia 250 mm and 200 mm long iron tower and socket bolts, 2 (two) Nos. heavy type nickel plated handles, 1 (one) no best quality hasp bolt, hinged cleats, buffer blocks and finishing by sand papering etc. all complete in all floors and accepted by the Engineer-in-charge. (All sizes of wood are finished) | Supplying, fitting and fixing 38 mm thick well matured seasoned (minimum 250 mm wide plank) solid wood single leaf door shutter having top rail style of sections 100 mm x 38 mm, lock rail 125 mm x 38 mm and bottom rail 225 mm x 38 mm. Closed joints with 25 mm x 12 mm size wooden peg and provided with best quality 4 (four) Nos. 100 mm iron hinges, 2 (two) Nos. best quality 12 mm dia 250 mm and 200 mm long iron tower and socket bolts, 2 (two) Nos. heavy type nickel plated handles, 1 (one) no best quality hasp bolt, hinged cleats, buffer blocks and finishing by sand papering etc. all complete in all floors and accepted by the Engineer-in-charge. (All sizes of wood are finished) Chittagong Teak |

Please see and download the attached document in Amendment/Corrigendum Tab in respective tender. All other contents of the published tender will remain same.

Abu Hayat Muhammad Shakiul Azam
Executive Engineer (C.C)
PWD Division, Satkhira

GD-678

Rangpur bus strike continues

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Plying of buses on Rangpur-Dhaka route remained suspended for the second consecutive day yesterday, due to the strike of transport workers to press home their five-point demand, which includes disbursement of unpaid salaries.

The workers, including drivers, helpers and supervisors of all bus operators, started the strike without any prior notice on Tuesday morning, which left commuters in a helpless state. The crisis of train tickets was also exacerbated by the strike.

But it is still unclear who actually called the strike, the owners or the transport workers, as different workers are contradicting each other's statements. Some said the owners called it, while others were saying that the workers



Buses lie idle at Kamarpara bus stand yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

called it to realise their demands. The owners in Rangpur are yet to give any statement.

During a visit to Rangpur city's Kamarpara area, this correspondent found workers loitering. Many ticket counters remained closed. The workers said they started the strike to realise their demands, which include disbursement of arrears and stopping extortion on highways and harassment by law enforcers.

A meeting between worker leaders and owners is likely to be held today in Dhaka, said Liton Mia, a counter assistant.

MA Majid, general secretary of Bangladesh Transport Workers Federation's Rangpur unit, said the demands are rational, but he was unaware of the strike.

National Academy for Computer Training & Research (NACTAR)

Technical and Madrasah Education Division
Ministry of Education
Bogura, Bangladesh
www.nactar.gov.bd

Memo No. 57.21.0000.009.41.004.21

Date: 06/04/2022

e-GP Tender Notice (OTM) 2021-2022

e-Tender is invited in National e-GP System (<http://www.nactar.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following packages:

| Serial Number | Tender ID No. | Name of packages | Last date and time of tender security submission | Tender closing date and time | Tender opening date and time |
|---------------|---------------|--|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | 682702 | Supply, Installation and Servicing of Multimedia Projector. SSD (Solid State Drive) and Online UPS at NACTAR, Bogura | 24/04/2022 Time 12.00 BST | 25/04/2022 Time 12.00 BST | 25/04/22 Time 12.00 BST |
| 2 | 682468 | Supply and Installation of Networking Instruments and Works (Wi-Fi) at NACTAR, Bogura | 25/04/2022 Time 11.00 BST | 25/04/2021 Time 12.00 BST | 25/04/22 Time 12.00 BST |
| 3 | 682756 | Renovation works of Mini conference hall and Robotics Lab at NACTAR, Bogura | 25/04/2022 Time 16.00 BST | 26/04/2022 Time 12.00 BST | 26/04/22 Time 12.00 BST |
| 4 | 682922 | Supply and Installation of Office Furniture at NACTAR, Bogura | 26/04/2022 Time 09.30 BST | 26/04/2022 Time 10.00 BST | 26/04/22 Time 10.00 BST |
| 5 | 682948 | Providing & Fixing 500A distribution board. Ceiling Fan, Exhaust Fan and Electric connection to computer Lab at NACTAR, Bogura | 26/04/2022 Time 17.00 BST | 27/04/2022 Time 11.00 BST | 27/04/22 Time 11.00 BST |
| 6 | 682934 | Repair and renovation works of west side Boundary wall at NACTAR, Bogura | 24/04/2022 Time 14.00 BST | 24/04/2022 Time 15.00 BST | 24/04/22 Time 15.00 BST |

This is online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

Md. Shafiu Islam
Director (Deputy Secretary)
NACTAR, Bogura
Phone: 051-60899

GD-675

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

অন্টারনেটিভ মেডিকেল কেয়ার (এএমসি)

স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর, মহাখালী, ঢাকা।

Email- amc@ld.dghs.gov.bd

স্মারক নং-স্বাস্থ্য অধিঃ/এএমসি/জনবল নিয়োগ/২০১৭-২০২৩/১১-২০তম প্রেড/১৯২৯

তারিখঃ ০৬/০৪/২০২২খ্রিঃ।

৪র্থ, এইচপিএনএসপি আওতায় অন্টারনেটিভ মেডিকেল কেয়ার (এএমসি) অপারেশনাল প্লানের অধীন ২২৬টি পদে জনবল নিয়োগের সংশোধনী বিজ্ঞপ্তি।

স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তরের স্মারক নং-স্বাস্থ্য অধিঃ/এএমসি/জনবল নিয়োগ/১১-২০তম প্রেড/২০২২/১৯২৩, তারিখঃ ০৫/০৪/২০২২খ্রিঃ মোতাবেক ৪র্থ, এইচপিএনএসপি আওতায় অন্টারনেটিভ মেডিকেল কেয়ার (এএমসি) অপারেশনাল প্লানের অধীন ২২৬টি পদে জনবল নিয়োগের জন্য দৈনিক সমকাল এবং দি ডেইলী স্টার পত্রিকায় বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রদান করা হয়।

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির আবেদনের শর্ত ও নিয়মাবলীর ক্রমিক নং-৬ এর লিখিত ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষার তারিখ স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তরের ওয়েবসাইটের (www.dghs.gov.bd) মাধ্যমে এবং প্রার্থীর মোবাইল (Mobile) ফোন নাম্বারে এসএমএস এর মাধ্যমে শুধুমাত্র যোগ্য প্রার্থীদেরকে জানিয়ে দেওয়া হবে।

ক্রমিক নং-৭। অসত্য/ভুল তথ্য সম্বলিত/যোগ্যতার সাথে অসঙ্গতিপূর্ণ/ত্রুটিপূর্ণ আবেদনপত্র কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। প্রার্থী কর্তৃক দাখিলকৃত /প্রদত্ত কোন তথ্য বা কাগজ নিয়োগ কার্যক্রম চলাকালে অথবা নিয়োগের যে কোন পর্যায়ে বা নিয়োগ প্রাপ্তির পরে অসত্য/ভুল প্রমানিত হলে তার দরখাস্ত/নির্বাচন/নিয়োগ বাতিল করা হবে এবং মিথ্যা/ভুল তথ্য সরবরাহ করার জন্য তার বিরুদ্ধে আইনগত/প্রশাসনিক ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

শর্তাবলীর ক্রমিক নং- ৯ এর ও এ ১নং থেকে ১৮নং পদের স্থলে ১নং থেকে ৫নং পদ হবে।

(ডঃ মোঃ আবু জাহের)

লাইন ডিরেক্টর

অন্টারনেটিভ মেডিকেল কেয়ার (এএমসি)

স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর, মহাখালী, ঢাকা।

ও সভাপতি

১১-২০ তম প্রেডে জনবল নিয়োগ কমিটি।

ফোন নং-০২-৫৮৮১২১৩৪

GD- 680

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Plant Quarantine Wing
Department of Agricultural Extension
Khamarbari, Dhaka-1215.
www.dae.gov.bd

Memo no: 12.01.0000.500.42.201.21-1606

Date: 05-04-2022

E-GP Re-Tender Notice

| Tender ID | Brief Description of Goods and Related Service | Tender Publication | Last Selling | Tender Security Submission | Closing & Opening |
|-----------|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 682815 | Supply of Fumigant Aluminium Phosphide 56% in tubes | 05-Apr-2022 16:00 | 17-Apr-2022 12:00 | 17-Apr-2022 15:30 | 17-Apr-2022 16:00 |

The above mentioned tender is an online tender, where e tender will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline copies will be accepted. To Submit e-Tender register in the e-GP portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd). The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents of the mentioned package from the national e-GP portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank by up to particular date specified on the tender notice. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP portal and e-GP gelp desk.

(Ranjit Kumar Pal)
Director
Plant Quarantine Wing
Department of Agricultural Extension
Khamarbari, Dhaka.
Phone: 55028745
E-mail: dpqw@dae.gov.bd

GD- 682



“The industry will not grow if we sit and complain”

NUHASH HUMAYUN

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Nuhash Humayun loves making “weird stuff”, as he jokingly phrases it. However, he is objectively one of the most open-to-experiment directors of our time. He recently won the Midnight Shorts Jury Award at the SXSW Film Festival for his film “Moshari”, and is now making headlines with his ambitious series, “Pett Kata Shaw” on Chorki, which releases today.

We talk to the director, who is currently residing in LA, about his latest project, and thoughts on the industry.

Tell us about “Pett Kata Shaw”. “Pett Kata Shaw” is an anthology of supernatural stories based on our folklore, I would not call it horror, per se.

They contain psychological and paranormal layers – ghost stories that explore the human condition.

Your take on our folklore is certainly interesting. What made you portray it? I think ghosts in Bengali culture are different from the horror films that we see in western media. Jinns, Petnis and various creatures, we seem to have a special connection to them. Stories of darkness

Like our language, I felt like our folklores should be preserved, and thus set out on portraying them in my own style.

teach us light, and stories of fear teach us courage.

Like our language, I felt our folklores should be preserved, and thus set out on portraying them in my own style.

“E Building E Meye Nishedh”, “Loke Bole”, “Mishiti Kichu” and “Nishir Daak” all have interesting casting. They do indeed. We have veterans like Chanchal Chowdhury and Afzal Hossain

working together for the very first time, as well as Shohel Rana, Morshed Mishu, Masuda Khan, Shirin Akter Shela and Pritom Hasan.

You wrote, directed and edited “Moshari”. How did the triumph in the SXSW Film Festival feel like?

The jury win of “Moshari” is a culmination of all the voices, pessimists, cynics that I did not listen to. It’s me and my team listening to our inner child. The win was significant, to say the least, and it means so much to Asians around the world. We are not very well represented in media, especially in this genre.

What do you think is your future in the industry, given that you like to experiment so much?

After “Sincerely Yours Dhaka” went to Busan many thought I’d venture into arthouse films for good. I’ve had local filmmakers scoff at me when I said my next project is a pop music video, at that time. I’ve since done a cooking show, a drama, a horror short, and even a bathroom cleaning product commercial – but all with my personal touch.

The industry will not grow if we just sit and complain. Someone has to go out there and make new and weird stuff, like I do!

Rezwana Choudhury Bannya, Shwapnil Shojib’s music film releasing on Bengali New Year

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



Renowned Rabindra Sangeet exponent Rezwana Choudhury Bannya and popular singer Shwapnil Shojib, along with 50 chorus singers, have come together for the music film “Mongolbarota”. It

will be released on Dhruba Music Station on the occasion of the Bengali New Year.

The musical compilation is a concoction of Rabindranath Tagore’s “Sokatore Oi Kadiche Sokole” and English poet and Anglican clergyman John Newton’s hymn “Amazing Grace”.

Popular reality show Saregama- famed Saikat Biswas Goblo has composed the music while Shubhbrabrata Sarkar has directed the video.

The song is produced by Dhruba Guha, and conceptualised by Shwapnil Shojib.

‘I haven’t been on the internet in four and a half years’

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



Celebrated singer Selena Gomez addressed her personal thoughts surrounding her social media hiatus, as well as its impact, during a Good Morning America appearance.

“I haven’t been on the internet in four and a half years. It has changed my life completely,” she said. She dubbed it akin to therapy and

admitted it has been an amazing way to cope with mental health woes.

“I am happier, I am more present, I connect more with people,” she added.

“I understand how powerful the internet is, and in so many ways, it’s done the best things for the world. But for me, to get my news that is actually important I get through people in my life.”

NEWS

Khaleda home after tests

FROM PAGE 12
suggested taking her abroad for better treatment but the government was denying the permission. Asked, he said, “When chairperson [Khaleda] went to the court, she went on foot. Her physical condition has reached such a level now that she cannot move without a wheelchair.” The medical professional said Khaleda sought the prayers of the people for

her recovery and also expressed gratitude to her party leaders and activists. Khaleda went from her house to Evercare Hospital for some tests and then she was taken back to her house yesterday. Khaleda has been diagnosed with liver cirrhosis recently. She has long been suffering from arthritis, diabetes, as well as dental and eye problems. She was admitted to

the hospital on November 13 and moved to the CCU on the following day, nearly a week after she was discharged from the same healthcare facility. Khaleda was sent to jail on February 8, 2018, in a corruption case. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, she was given a temporary release on certain conditions on March 25 last year. The term of her release has been extended four times so far.

His stance against

FROM PAGE 12
Thailand, and Canada, Rab said, quoting Ashish. The High Court in 2003 stayed the proceedings of the trial. The stay was withdrawn on February 27 this year. The accused was working for a reputed organisation and had worked for several other firms, including at two airlines, he added. Replying to another query, the Rab official said Ashish told Rab that he was in Canada for four-five years after the murder; he travelled to the UAE, the US and Thailand and met other accused in the case

there. Of the nine accused, only Tariq Sayeed Mamun is now in jail. Among the other accused, Adnan Siddiqui and Faruque Abbasi are now on bail while Aziz, Bunty, Emon, businessman Selim Khan and Leather Liton are on the run. A Dhaka court yesterday asked the inspector general of police to produce evidence seized by law enforcers in the case and also asked the registrar general of the Supreme Court to produce the case docket by April 17 following two petitions filed by the prosecutors.

Lanka

FROM PAGE 12
Lanka’s crippling economic crisis risks starvation across the nation of 22 million. “We are told this is the worst crisis, but I think this is just the beginning,” Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana said at the start of a two-day debate on the economic woes. After Fernando’s speech in parliament, nearly 200 doctors marched down a road in Colombo, chanting slogans against the government. Some held a banner saying: “Strengthen people’s right to live. Declare a health emergency.”

Rejoinder and our reply

FROM PAGE 12
the last two years. As the land was left unoccupied for an extended period, some local miscreants who are opposed to foreign investment started putting undue pressure and tried to spoil the process by hiring goons who threatened dire consequences if their demanded amount was not paid. Moreover in the darkness of night, they removed the boundary pillars of the land, stole huge barbed wire. It should also be

mentioned here that these lands are nonagricultural and char-sandy areas that remain inundated for 4-5 months a year. A certificate from department of agriculture & UP chairman office in this regard are attached herewith. OUR REPLY The report was based on allegations of the farmers. The Daily Star talked with different farmers in the area and recorded their comments. The agitated farmers submitted complaints to Pabna deputy

commissioner’s office and also to the local lawmaker about grabbing their land. The Daily Star obtained a copy of the complaint filed submitted to the DC office. The Daily Star also talked with other people including local UP chairman, former chairman and the company’s legal adviser and published key points of their comments too. The deputy commissioner formed a probe committee to investigate the allegations of farmers. We stand by our story.

Teacher in jail, family in fear

FROM PAGE 12
night, the school’s office assistant, Md Asad Miah, filed the case for “demeaning religion”. In the meantime, a mobile phone recording of the classroom conversation was circulated among locals. “We have long been facing troubles from some unruly students. They used to stalk my husband on roads and even in classroom. Besides, some people would often kick our doors and knock on our windows and flee,” said Babita. Usually, students are not allowed to enter classrooms with mobile phones. “So, how could someone record the conversation,” she

questioned? “My husband did not make any derogatory comments over Islam. He was framed in a planned way. A vested quarter is conspiring to benefit by inciting students.” She also demanded immediate release of her husband citing that he is physically ill and needs regular medication. Hriday’s lawyer Ajoy Chakraborty, also the president of the district lawyers’ association, said, “We have filed petitions twice seeking his bail. But the petitions were rejected. We will seek his bail again during the next hearing on April 10.”

He added, “In the FIR, police intentionally incorporated a section on demeaning religion.” Samor Ghosh, president of Munshiganj district unit of Bangladesh Puja Uddipan Parishad, said, “Hriday is innocent. Some people might have conspired against him and provoked the students.” Jamal Uddin, another teacher of the school, said, “Hriday is a peace-loving guy. There were no allegations against him in the past. I also don’t know how could a student carry mobile phone in the classroom.” Contacted, school’s office assistant Md Asad Miah said, “I have filed the

case as per directives of the school authorities.” Headmaster Md Alauddin Ahmed said a group of students filed a complaint on March 20 afternoon alleging that Hriday made derogatory comments on Islam. “The next morning, we served a show-cause notice upon him. But students started demonstrating on March 22 morning. On information, police came and detained him,” he said. The Daily Star has found that a tenth grader recorded the conversation on his mobile phone. “There was a discussion on science and religion in our class. At one stage, he

[Hriday] made derogatory comments on Islam,” he told The Daily Star. About the agitations on March 22, he said, “We were in class that day. Some of my friends and outsiders came to us and took us to the protest. I don’t know the outsiders. But they are locals.” Md Mizanur Rahman, investigation officer of the case and sub-inspector of Munshiganj Sadar Police Station, said, “We have got an audio clip of the conversation between the teacher and the students. But we did not find the allegation brought against him to be true. We will submit the charge sheet shortly.”

Tipu’s aide hired hitman, armed him

FROM PAGE 12
Akash claimed that he was accused in five politically motivated cases in 2007. “For the cases, my family life was hampered and I had to stay away from my family. Shamim knew it. On March 15-16, Shamim called my number and asked if I would be able to do a job for him. If I can, all my cases will be settled,” said a court source, quoting from the statement. Asked about the job, Shamim told Akash, who knew him for the last nine to 10 years, that the job was to kill a person. A couple of days later, Akash met Shamim at Kamalapur. Then Shamim arranged a phone conversation between Akash and one Musa. “Musa then asked me whether Shamim had briefed me about the job. I replied yes,” the court source said, quoting Akash as saying. “Musa then said he will be timely provided with all the necessary things for the task.” After the phone conversation, Shamim

informed Akash that Musa assigned him to kill Tipu. The decision was made in a meeting at Rupali Club in Kamalapur. Shamim along with Musa, Manik, Damal and four to five others were present there, said Akash in the statement. Getting the task, Shamim talked to Akash. On March 23 evening, Akash went to Kamalapur ICD area with Shamim and met an unknown person aged around 30. The man gave Shamim a blue bag and a motorbike. A pistol was in the bag, said Akash. “In the motorbike, Shamim took me to a hotel at AGB Colony of Motijheel, where Tipu generally sat. But moments later, a text came to Shamim’s phone that Tipu will not be found there,” said Akash. Then Shamim with Akash went to Goran area and returned the bike and the pistol to the man, from whom those had been collected. The next day, on March 24, the bike and the pistol were collected again from

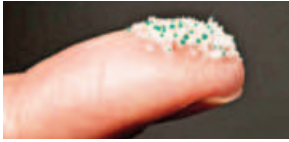
the man. Shamim drove the bike and took Akash to AGB Colony. From there, they started following Tipu’s microbus. When the car reached Shahjahanpur’s Amtala Signal, Shamim took position beside a median from the wrong side. Akash then got down from the bike and started opening fire on Tipu who was in a microbus that got stuck in a traffic jam, said the court source, quoting Akash as saying. Tipu and Prity, a student who happened to be on a rickshaw next to the microbus, were killed. After the incident, Shamim along with Akash again went to Goran area and returned the pistol and the motorbike to the man. “Five to six minutes later, Shamim fled. I also called my friend Sohel, who had a car. In the car, I went to Bogura,” said Akash. “For the task, Shamim or Musa did not offer me any money but they assured me that they would pay all the money needed to settle all the five cases filed

against me,” he said in his statement. Shamim told him that Musa wanted to take control on illegal businesses in Motijheel in support of top criminals Jisan and Manik, Akash said while giving his statement before the court about the reasons behind Tipu murder. Besides, Tipu was also giving support to the family of slain Rizvy Hasan to continue the proceedings into his murder case in which Musa was a charge-sheeted accused. Musa wanted to stop the case, said Akash in the court. Detectives said they were now looking for Shamim and the firearm used in killing Tipu. They added that after arresting Shamim, they would be able to know why Shamim was involved in Tipu murder. Contacted, Md Sony, brother-in-law of Shamim, told this newspaper that they were surprised to hear that Shamim was involved in the murder as he was an aide of Tipu.

India’s FM

FROM PAGE 12
out, all sides should maintain restraint and avoid baseless accusations,” he told reporters at a regular press briefing. Pope Francis condemned “the massacre of Bucha” and kissed a Ukrainian flag sent from the town. The US targeted Russian banks and elites with a new package of sanctions yesterday that includes banning any American from investing in Russia, after Washington and Kyiv accused Moscow of committing war crimes in Ukraine, reports Reuters. The new sanctions will put full blocking sanctions in Russia’s Sberbank SBER. MM, which holds one-third of Russia’s total banking assets, and Alfabank, a senior US official told reporters. The US is also sanctioning Russian President Vladimir Putin’s adult daughters, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov’s wife and daughter, and members of Russia’s security council, the official added.

Microplastics found in live human lungs for first time



AGENCIES

Scientists have discovered microplastics in live human lungs for the first time. Researchers from the University of Hull and Hull York Medical School also found microplastics in the deepest section of the lung, which was previously thought to be impossible due to how narrow the airways are. Microplastics have previously been found in human cadaver autopsy samples. People were already known to breathe in the tiny particles, as well as consuming them via food and water. Microplastics were detected in human blood for the first time in March, showing the particles can travel around the body and may lodge in organs. The impact on health is as yet unknown. But researchers are concerned as microplastics cause damage to human cells in the laboratory and air pollution particles are already known to enter the body and cause millions of early deaths a year.

PAK PM’S BID TO BLOCK HIS OWN OUSTER

SC likely to rule today

President requests EC to set election date as political crisis continues

AGENCIES

Pakistan’s top court could rule today on Prime Minister Imran Khan’s move to block an opposition attempt to oust him, a step his critics say is unconstitutional and has touched off political turmoil.

Khan, a former cricket star, lost his parliamentary majority last week and had faced a no-confidence vote tabled by the opposition that he was expected to lose on Sunday.

But the deputy speaker of parliament, a member of Khan’s party, threw out the motion, ruling it was part of a foreign conspiracy and unconstitutional. Khan then dissolved parliament.

The stand-off has thrown the nuclear-armed country of 220 million people, ruled by the military for extended periods since independence in 1947, into a full-blown constitutional crisis.

The opposition has challenged the decision to block the vote in the Supreme Court, which began deliberating the case on Monday. On Wednesday, lawyers for Khan’s Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party launched their defence.

Ali Zafar, a lawyer for President Arif Alvi who is a party ally of Khan, said the court should not involve itself in parliamentary procedure.

“My humble submission would be that if your lordships start monitoring parliamentary affairs, there would be no end to that,” he told the panel of five judges.

The Supreme Court will reconvene today at around 9:30am. Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial said on Wednesday he wanted to wrap up the hearings. “Let’s start early from tomorrow to conclude the case,” he said.

The court could order parliament to be



reconstituted, call for fresh elections, or bar Khan from power if he is found to have violated the constitution.

It could also decide that it cannot intervene in parliamentary affairs.

As the court considers the legality of the political manoeuvring, Khan’s decision to dissolve parliament and call a general election is moving forward with President Alvi asking the Election Commission to think about a date for a vote, which should be within 90 days of the April 3 dissolution.

It is unclear what the court will decide, but there is precedent.

In 1988, Muhammad Khan Junejo appealed to the court after the assembly was dissolved by then president General Zia-ul-Haq, who had taken power in a military coup years earlier.

It agreed his government had been dissolved unconstitutionally, but ruled that since elections had been announced anyway it was best to move on.

In 1993, the court ruled president Ghulam Ishaq Khan had also illegally dissolved the assembly -- then with Nawaz Sharif as prime minister.

Pakistan’s military is facing growing calls from the opposition to weigh in on the legitimacy of Khan’s complaints about a foreign plot against him, which he said was being orchestrated by the US.

Washington dismissed the accusation. An official with knowledge of the matter, who declined to be identified, told Reuters on Tuesday that security agencies had found no credible evidence to confirm Khan’s complaint of a conspiracy.

China sees record Covid-19 cases

AFP, Shanghai

China reported more than 20,000 Covid-19 cases yesterday, the highest daily tally given since the start of the pandemic as millions in locked-down Shanghai began a new round of testing. The country’s “zero-Covid” strategy has come under immense strain as cases spike, with around 25 million residents of Shanghai -- China’s largest city and economic engine room -- ordered to stay at home as the authorities struggle to contain the outbreak. The majority of the cases are, however, asymptomatic. Authorities reported no new deaths, in a country which says only two people have died of the virus in nearly two years.

Israel PM loses majority after MP quits coalition

AFP, Jerusalem

A key member of Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett’s Yamina party yesterday said she was quitting his coalition government, in a surprise move that leaves him without a parliamentary majority. Idit Silman’s announcement left Bennett’s coalition, an alliance of parties ranging from the Jewish right and Israeli doves to an Arab Muslim party, with 60 seats -- the same as the opposition. Bennett’s coalition may continue ruling with 60 seats, although with difficulty passing new legislation. If another member of the coalition defects, however, the Knesset could hold a vote of no confidence and potentially lead Israel back to the polls for a fifth parliamentary election in four years.



CHEMICAL, NUKE WAR FEARS

EU stockpiles radiation drugs

AFP, Brussels

The EU yesterday said it was building a 540-million-euro (\$590 million) emergency stockpile of medicine and equipment to deal with chemical and nuclear emergencies as fears surge over Russia’s war in Ukraine. The bloc’s executive, the European Commission, said the supplies consist of “equipment and medicines, vaccines and other therapeutics” to treat patients exposed to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear emergencies. As a first step, the EU said it was procuring “potassium iodide tablets which can be used to protect people from the harmful effects of radiation”. The announcement comes as fears swirl over potential nuclear or chemical weapon use stemming from Russia’s attack on its pro-Western neighbour.




“The only thing we are lacking is the principled approach of some leaders -- political leaders, business leaders -- who still think that war and war crimes are not as horrific as financial losses.

Ukrainian President **Volodymyr Zelenskyy** slams European ‘indecisiveness’ over sanctions

| <div></div> <div>বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশন বিএসসি ভবন, সন্টগোলা রোড চট্টগ্রাম।</div> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---------|-----------------------|-------------|----|----------------------------------|----|----|---------------------------------|----|----|--|----------|----|---|----------|----|--|----------|----|--|----------|----|--------------------------|----|--|---------|------|--|
| বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-১৮-১৬.০০০০.৩৫৩.০৩.০১৫.২২.৬৭৭ | | তারিখ: ০৬ এপ্রিল, ২০২২খ্রি. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| আউটসোর্সিং প্রক্রিয়ায় বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশনে ২৭ (সাতাশ) টি পদে জনবল সরবরাহের জন্য উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র (OTM) পদ্ধতিতে ভৌত সেবা ক্রয়ের লক্ষ্যে দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি। | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ০১ | মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ | নৌ-পরিবহন মন্ত্রণালয়, গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার। | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ০২। | বাস্তবায়নকারী সংস্থার নাম | বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশন, চট্টগ্রাম। | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ০২। | প্রকিউরিং এনটিটি | মহাব্যবস্থাপক, প্রশাসন বিভাগ, বিএসসি, চট্টগ্রাম। | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ০৩। | দরপত্র আহ্বানের সূত্র ও তারিখ | ১৮-১৬.০০০০.৩৫৩.০৩.০১৫.২২.৬৭৭; ০৬এপ্রিল, ২০২২খ্রি. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ০৩। | বাজেট এবং তহবিলের উৎস | বিএসসির নিজস্ব তহবিল। | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ০৪। | দরপত্র প্যাকেজের নাম | আউটসোর্সিং প্রক্রিয়ায় বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশনে ২৭ (সাতাশ) টি পদে জনবল সরবরাহের জন্য উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র (OTM) পদ্ধতিতে ভৌত সেবা ক্রয়ের লক্ষ্যে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ০৫। | দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ সময়সীমা ও স্থান | তারিখ ও সময়: ২০/০৪/২০২২খ্রি. বিকাল ০৩.০০ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত বিএসসি প্রধান কার্যালয় অফিস এবং হিসাব বিভাগ, বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশন, বিএসসি ভবন, সন্টগোলা রোড, চট্টগ্রাম। | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ০৬। | প্রি-ক্লোর মিটিং | ১৯/০৪/২০২২খ্রি. সকাল ১১.০০ ঘটিকা | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ০৭। | দরপত্র সিডিউল সংগ্রহের পদ্ধতি | দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য বাবদ (অফেরতযোগ্য) ৬২,০০০ (দুই হাজার টাকা মাত্র) পরিশোধ করে বিএসসি প্রধান কার্যালয়ের হিসাব বিভাগের কাশ শাখা হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ০৮। | দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও স্থান | তারিখ ও সময়: ২১/০৪/২০২২খ্রি. দুপুর ১২.০০ঘটিকা বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশন প্রধান কার্যালয়। বিএসসি ভবন সন্টগোলা রোড, চট্টগ্রাম এর কক্ষ নং-৩৫১, মহাব্যবস্থাপক (প্রশাসন) এর দপ্তরে রক্ষিত নির্ধারিত বক্সে দরপত্র ফেলতে হবে। | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ০৯। | দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও স্থান | তারিখ ও সময়: ২১/০৪/২০২২খ্রি. দুপুর ১২.৩০ঘটিকা কক্ষ নং-৩৫১, মহাব্যবস্থাপক (প্রশাসন) এর দপ্তর। বিএসসি ভবন, চট্টগ্রাম। | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ১০। | দরদাতার যোগ্যতা | জনবল সরবরাহকারী হিসেবে দরদাতাকে নিম্নলিখিত দলিলাদি দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে: ক) হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স; খ) ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন ও TIN সার্টিফিকেট; গ) হালনাগাদ আয়কর পরিশোধ সনদপত্র; ঘ) ব্যাংক কর্তৃক আর্থিক স্বচ্ছতার সনদপত্র; ঙ) ০৭/০৪/২০২২খ্রি. তারিখে ব্যাংক স্থিতিপত্র; চ) বিপত্নি তিন (০৩) ব্সরে ন্যূনতম ৫০ (পঞ্চাশ) লক্ষ টাকার জনবল সরবরাহের কার্যাদেশের সত্যায়িত কপি এবং ছ) দরপত্র দলিলে চাহিত প্রয়োজনমূলক তথ্যাদি ও ডকুমেন্ট। | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ১১। | সেবার বিবরণ | <table><tr><th>ক্র.নং.</th><th>সেবার নাম ও ক্যাটাগরি</th><th>পদের সংখ্যা</th></tr><tr><td>১।</td><td>পরিচ্ছন্নতা কর্মী (ক্যাটাগরি-০৫)</td><td>০৬</td></tr><tr><td>২।</td><td>গাড়িচালক (লাইট) (ক্যাটাগরি-০২)</td><td>০৪</td></tr><tr><td>৩।</td><td>ক) হেলকট্রিশিয়ান (ক্যাটাগরি-০১) খ) অটোমেকানিক (ক্যাটাগরি-০১)</td><td>০৪ ০১</td></tr><tr><td>৪।</td><td>ক)কুক (ক্যাটাগরি ০৪) খ) কুক হেল্পার গ)কুয়ার্ড (ক্যাটাগরি ০৫)</td><td>০১ ০২</td></tr><tr><td>৫।</td><td>ক) কেয়ারটেকার (ক্যাটাগরি-০৫) খ) মেডিকেল অ্যাটেন্ডেন্ট (ক্যাটাগরি-০৫)</td><td>০৩ ০১</td></tr><tr><td>৬।</td><td>ক) লিফট মেনটেনেন্স (ক্যাটাগরি-০৫) খ) প্রজেক্টর অপারেটর (ক্যাটাগরি-০৫)</td><td>০১ ০১</td></tr><tr><td>৭।</td><td>ম্যাসেজার (ক্যাটাগরি-০৫)</td><td>০৩</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>সর্বমোট</td><td>২৭টি</td></tr></table> | ক্র.নং. | সেবার নাম ও ক্যাটাগরি | পদের সংখ্যা | ১। | পরিচ্ছন্নতা কর্মী (ক্যাটাগরি-০৫) | ০৬ | ২। | গাড়িচালক (লাইট) (ক্যাটাগরি-০২) | ০৪ | ৩। | ক) হেলকট্রিশিয়ান (ক্যাটাগরি-০১) খ) অটোমেকানিক (ক্যাটাগরি-০১) | ০৪ ০১ | ৪। | ক)কুক (ক্যাটাগরি ০৪) খ) কুক হেল্পার গ)কুয়ার্ড (ক্যাটাগরি ০৫) | ০১ ০২ | ৫। | ক) কেয়ারটেকার (ক্যাটাগরি-০৫) খ) মেডিকেল অ্যাটেন্ডেন্ট (ক্যাটাগরি-০৫) | ০৩ ০১ | ৬। | ক) লিফট মেনটেনেন্স (ক্যাটাগরি-০৫) খ) প্রজেক্টর অপারেটর (ক্যাটাগরি-০৫) | ০১ ০১ | ৭। | ম্যাসেজার (ক্যাটাগরি-০৫) | ০৩ | | সর্বমোট | ২৭টি | সংশ্লিষ্ট পদসমূহে শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা, এবং সাক্ষ্যে জনপ্রতি সেবামূল্য (মাসিক) দরপত্র অফিসে বিস্তারিত উল্লেখ রয়েছে। |
| ক্র.নং. | সেবার নাম ও ক্যাটাগরি | পদের সংখ্যা | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ১। | পরিচ্ছন্নতা কর্মী (ক্যাটাগরি-০৫) | ০৬ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ২। | গাড়িচালক (লাইট) (ক্যাটাগরি-০২) | ০৪ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ৩। | ক) হেলকট্রিশিয়ান (ক্যাটাগরি-০১) খ) অটোমেকানিক (ক্যাটাগরি-০১) | ০৪ ০১ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ৪। | ক)কুক (ক্যাটাগরি ০৪) খ) কুক হেল্পার গ)কুয়ার্ড (ক্যাটাগরি ০৫) | ০১ ০২ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ৫। | ক) কেয়ারটেকার (ক্যাটাগরি-০৫) খ) মেডিকেল অ্যাটেন্ডেন্ট (ক্যাটাগরি-০৫) | ০৩ ০১ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ৬। | ক) লিফট মেনটেনেন্স (ক্যাটাগরি-০৫) খ) প্রজেক্টর অপারেটর (ক্যাটাগরি-০৫) | ০১ ০১ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ৭। | ম্যাসেজার (ক্যাটাগরি-০৫) | ০৩ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | সর্বমোট | ২৭টি | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ১২। | কাজের অবস্থান | ক) প্রধান কার্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশন, বিএসসি, চট্টগ্রাম। খ) ঢাকা আঞ্চলিক অফিস, বিএসসি, চট্টগ্রাম। গ) খুলনা আঞ্চলিক অফিস, বিএসসি, চট্টগ্রাম। | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ১৩। | সরবরাহের সময় (মাস) | কার্যাদেশ প্রাপ্তির সর্বোচ্চ ১৫ (পনের) দিনের মধ্যে জনবল সরবরাহ। | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ১৪। | দরপত্র তফসিলের মূল্য | প্রতি সেট ৬২,০০০/- (টাকা দুই হাজার মাত্র) টাকা মাত্র (অফেরতযোগ্য)। | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ১৫। | দরপত্র জামানত | দরপত্রের সাথে বিএসসির অনুকূলে পে -অর্ডার টাকা ৫০,০০০/- (পঞ্চাশ হাজার টাকা মাত্র) জামানত হিসেবে জমা দিতে হবে। | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ১৬। | পরফরম্যান্স সিকিউরিটি | দরপত্র তফসিলে উল্লিখিত শর্তানুযায়ী। | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ১৭। | দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার সিকানা ও যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম। | মহাব্যবস্থাপক (প্রশাসন), বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশন, বিএসসি ভবন সন্টগোলা রোড, চট্টগ্রাম। ফোন নং০৩১-৭২৪৮৩২, ফ্যাক্স নং০৩১-৭২০৫০৬। ওয়েব সাইট-www.bsc.gov.bd | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ১৮। | বিশেষ নির্দেশাবলি | ক) দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত তথ্যাদি দরপত্র তফসিলে পাওয়া যাবে এবং দরপত্র তফসিলে উল্লিখিত বিশেষ নির্দেশাবলি যথাযথভাবে অনুসরণ করে দরপত্র প্রস্তাব দাখিল করতে হবে। খ) বর্ণিত পদসমূহে আউটসোর্সিং প্রক্রিয়ায় জনবল সরবরাহ এবং সেবা ক্রয়প্রক্রিয়ার ক্ষেত্রে আউটসোর্সিং প্রক্রিয়ায় সেবাগ্রহণ নীতিমালা,২০১৮ এবং অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়ের অর্থ বিভাগের ব্যয় ব্যবস্থাপনা-০৩ শাখার পরিপত্র নং-০৭.১৫৩.০২৯.০৭.০০.০১.২০১৯-২৫৯, তারিখ: ১০/০৬/২০১৯খ্রি. সর্বোচ্চভাবে অনুসৃত হবে। উল্লিখিত নীতিমালায় নির্ধারিত সেবামূল্যের দর থেকে দরপত্রে প্রস্তাবিত দর কম হলে দরপত্রটি নন-রেসপনসিভ বলে বিবেচিত হবে। গ) জনবল নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে বিএসসিতে সমপদে কর্মরত দৈনিক ভিত্তিক কর্মচারীদের অগ্রাধিকার প্রদান করতে হবে। ঘ) অসম্পূর্ণ অথবা সংশ্লিষ্ট নীতিমালা ও দরপত্র তফসিলের শর্তাদির সাথে অসংগতিপূর্ণ প্রস্তাব নন-রেসপনসিভ বলে গণ্য হবে, এতে দর বিবেচিত হবে না। ঙ) বিএসসি কর্তৃপক্ষ কোনরূপ কারণ প্রদর্শন ব্যতিরেকেই যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন এবং অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন ও উন্নতমানের প্রতিষ্ঠান না হলে সর্বনিম্ন দর গ্রহণে বাধ্য নন। চ) এছাড়া, দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশনের নিজস্ব ওয়েবসাইট (https://bsc.portal.gov.bd/)এ পাওয়া যাবে। | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GD-681 | | স্বাক্ষরিত/- মহাব্যবস্থাপক (প্রশাসন) বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশন ফোন নং ০৩১-৭২৪৮৩২ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Director
Directorate of Technical Education
Sylhet Region, Sylhet



Ref No. 57.03.9131.102.07.001.21.98

Date: 06.04.2022

Invitation for Tenders for Supply of Manpower by Outsourcing

| | | |
|----|---|--|
| 1 | Ministry/Division | Ministry of Education, Technical & Madrasah Education Division. |
| 2 | Agency | Directorate of Technical Education. |
| 3 | Procuring entity name | Director, Directorate of Technical Education, Sylhet Region, Sylhet. |
| 4 | Procuring entity district | Sylhet. |
| 5 | Invitation for | Supply of Manpower by Outsourcing. |
| 6 | Invitation Ref No. | 57.03.9131.102.07.001.21.98, Date: 06.04.2022 |
| 7 | Procurement method | OTM. |
| 8 | Budget and source of funds | GOB. |
| 9 | Description of tenders | Office of the Director, Directorate of Technical Education, Sylhet Region, Sylhet wants to hire One (01) Sweeper & One (01) Security Guard by OTM for the time duration April 2022 to March 2023. |
| 10 | Tender Package No. | SRDO-Ser-1 |
| 11 | Tender package name | Outsourcing |
| 12 | Tender publication date | 07.04.2022 (Selling date & time: 07.04.2022, during office hour). |
| 13 | Tender last selling date | 19.04.2022 |
| 14 | Tender closing date and time | 20.04.2022 Time: 12.00pm |
| 15 | Tender opening date and time | 20.04.2022 Time: 12:30pm |
| 16 | Address of selling tender document | Office of the Director, Directorate of Technical Education, Sylhet Region, Sylhet. |
| 17 | Address of receiving tender document | Office of the Director, Directorate of Technical Education, Sylhet Region, Sylhet. |
| 18 | Address of opening tender document | Office of the Director, Directorate of Technical Education, Sylhet Region, Sylhet. |
| 19 | Eligibility of tenderer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tenderers shall be enrolled in the relevant professional or trade organisations registered in Bangladesh. Tenderers shall have submit the attested copy trade license of running year, updated income tax-VAT registration certificate, Bank Draft/Pay-Order (Main Copy) of Tender Security. Tenderers shall have submit the specific experience certificate from public organizations. Tenderers shall have the valid and updated license from the Department of Inspection for Factories & Establishments. Other eligibilities are specified in TD. |
| 20 | Brief description of manpower & services | As per schedule (TDs). |
| 21 | Price of tender document (Tk) | 1000.00 Tk (one thousand Taka only), un-refundable & must submit the purchasing slip of tender document with TD. |
| 22 | Tender security amount (Tk) | Tk 14,000/- (fourteen thousand Tk only). |
| 23 | Completion time in weeks/months | Must supply manpower within two weeks after the contract agreement. |
| 24 | Type of manpower supply | As per schedule. |
| 25 | Name of official inviting tender | Mohammed Rehan Uddin. |
| 26 | Designation of official inviting tender | Director. |
| 27 | Address official inviting tender | Office of the Regional Director, Directorate of Technical Education, Sylhet Region, Sylhet. |
| 28 | Contact details of official inviting tender | Tel: 02996632529, E-mail: rdosylhet@gmail.com |
| 29 | The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceedings | |

Mohammed Rehan Uddin
 Director
 Directorate Technical Education
 Sylhet Region, Sylhet

GD-677

Take the MPs’ concerns for price hike seriously

Such animated discussions benefit both govt and the public

WE agree with the concerns expressed by 10 opposition members of parliament (MPs) about the sustained high prices of essentials and the role of the commerce ministry in this regard. The lawmakers—from opposition Jatiya Party, BNP and Gono Forum—reminded us how the ministry, in recent months, has failed to bring any semblance of order to the kitchen market. They highlighted its inability to dismantle the syndicates or prevent them from manipulating prices, how Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has been used to raise prices (even of products produced locally or imported before the war), and how the rise in transport fares and utility service charges have joined hands with the prices of essentials to increase public suffering.

These concerns came amid fresh hikes in prices of essentials during Ramadan. Over the last couple of days, according to a report by this daily, prices of green chilli, cucumber, brinjal and fruits went up by Tk 20-50 per kg, while those of fish and meat shot up by Tk 50-100 a kg. The recent drop in prices of edible oil, onion and sugar could not bring any respite to the ordinary people as other essentials became pricier. The futility of official action to bring down the prices, despite pledges from the authorities and repeated urgings from the consumers, is thus deeply troubling.

On April 5, as these concerns were raised by the opposition lawmakers—quite passionately, one might add—the parliament was again a people’s chamber igniting animated discussions, a scene slightly reminiscent of a time when the House was vibrant with a strong opposition that wouldn’t shy away from critical policy and governance issues. There is a beauty to the spectacle of public representatives speaking on behalf of their people, and taking government authorities to task for their failures. A government benefits from the insights of such an opposition. We hope the authorities, particularly the commerce ministry, will take these price hike concerns with due seriousness and initiate appropriate measures to address them.

It must be said at the same time that the main reason for the ongoing crisis is the machinations of the syndicates, with their sphere of influence alleged to run deep into the commerce ministry. The syndicates exploit the lack of a strong oversight mechanism as well as the vulnerability of a market notoriously susceptible to rumours and supply concerns. The government must come down hard on these crooked traders, dealers and importers, otherwise prices will continue to be high or fluctuate, and people will continue to suffer.

Has Wasa water ever been safe to drink directly?

We urge Dhaka Wasa to accept responsibility for its many shortcomings

WHEN the long-serving managing director of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) assures us that the foul-smelling tap water at home is harmless, are we to take his words at face value? Can we really drink the Wasa water without any fear, no matter how murky it may look or how foul it may smell? His claims are in sharp contrast to our own investigations, which have revealed a disturbing correlation between Wasa water and cholera outbreak in 10 areas of the capital.

He attempted to comfort the media saying that the tap water in his residence at Naya Paltan might smell of excessive chlorine, but that it was still drinkable. Yet, he urged all Dhaka residents to boil Wasa water before drinking it. If he is so confident that Wasa water is drinkable, why should he suggest boiling it? Besides, why should city residents have to burn gas worth Tk 332.37 crore to purify Wasa water anyway, when it’s Wasa’s mandate to provide safe drinking water?

Wasa water looks dirty even with the naked eye—and numerous laboratory tests have confirmed the presence of germs and bacteria, including the ones that cause diarrhoea and cholera, in Wasa water. It baffles the mind to hear the Dhaka Wasa MD say with such confidence that no germs were found in the water in the city’s 10 areas, from where most diarrhoea patients have visited various hospitals including the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b).

Though the Wasa MD continues to deny the presence of harmful germs such as E. coli in the water collected from the pipelines and water tanks of houses, experts brush off his claim, terming it “baseless.” Our reporters, after visiting many affected areas, found breaches in Dhaka Wasa’s supply system to be the main reason behind the cholera outbreak. In many areas, residents are receiving water which is greenish brown or yellowish and smelly, which suggests cross-contamination with sewage lines.

It is unacceptable that instead of acknowledging the severity of the problems and taking immediate steps to rectify them, the authorities are yet again in denial. This does not bode well for us, as we must continue to risk our health by drinking the contaminated water. We remember all too well a similar incident in 2019 when the Dhaka Wasa MD claimed that its water was safe for drinking, only to reject a glass of lemonade made with it by a concerned citizen! We hope it doesn’t need another offering of greenish-brown water for the MD to finally admit Wasa’s many shortcomings.

A skewed world order



STRATEGICALLY SPEAKING

Brig Gen Shahedul Anam Khan, ndc, psc (retd) is a former associate editor of The Daily Star.

SHAHEDUL ANAM KHAN

THE international system changes with the passage of time—strategic, political and economic compulsions act as the causative factors. Sometimes the change is gradual, while the shift sometimes is tectonic. The inflection points are the prominent events brought about by conflagrations, disasters, natural and man-made calamities. We are apparently standing at an inflection point, brought about firstly by the Covid calamity that portends to change the existing world order and influence economics, international trade and indeed international diplomacy. Experts believe that “contemporary history will forever be divided between what happened BC (before coronavirus) and AC (after coronavirus).” Secondly, the blatant and illegal invasion of a free and sovereign country by a big power, transgressing all international norms, is likely to influence the future order of things internationally. It is not for the first time, though, that such transgression has occurred, but the invasion of Ukraine is seeing a form of human barbarity—perpetrated by a powerful country on a relatively weaker country—not seen in the recent past.

The current world order is actually a skewed system dictated by the strong, ordered by the colonial and neocolonial powers unable to shed the hubris of the past. Such arrangements betray the hypocrisy and double standards of those that dictate the world order. And Putin and Russia won’t be left behind.

Sometimes the old order gives way to the new in a process driven by ideas flowering from the minds of intellectuals. After the end of the Cold War, a new paradigm had to be invented for international intervention, and one came handy in the form of the Huntingtonian doctrine, The Clash of Civilisations, which advanced the thesis that not countries, but cultures (read: religion) will confront each other in future. And so it was when the US and its coalition of the willing—which started with 31 countries and ended up with 48 (comprised of all Western countries except for four, and all but three of them were non-Muslim countries)—launched its illegal attack on Iraq in gross violation of international laws governed by the United Nations Charter.

The international political order or law that sought to govern international relations and the behaviour of nations was the UN Charter, including sovereign equality of states and prohibition of the use of force in international relations. It



▲
COLLAGE:
STAR

The UN is hamstrung by the veto power of the Big Five. Most of them are the victors of World War II, and as the saying goes, to the victor goes the booty. The veto power is one such booty. More often than not, it has been used for petty national interests by them.

development. And perhaps the most important adjunct of the rules-based international order—the human rights regime—is governed by the Declaration of Human Rights, which, according to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, promises to all the economic, social, political, cultural and civic rights that underpin a life free from want and fear.

The UN is hamstrung by the veto power of the Big Five. Most of them are the victors of World War II, and as the saying goes, to the victor goes the booty. The veto power is one such booty. More often than not, it has been used for petty national interests by them, rather than for the greater universal good. It has been used to sanctify illegal wars like the invasion and illegal occupation of Iraq. The most recent exercise of this power was Russia’s veto on the UN resolution that would have called on Moscow to immediately halt its attack on Ukraine and withdraw its troops beyond the international borders.

A similar “casteist” treaty that divides the world into nuclear haves and have-nots is the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Its objectives are to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament. An unofficial appendage of the NPT is the Nuclear Club, an informal arrangement of the band of five declared nuclear powers. Not that a few undeclared merit entry into it, but are not acknowledged by the anointed five. The NPT successes have been mixed, most of all in respect with the general disarmament, which has played into the hands of the

non-proliferation security fallacy. NPT’s “success” has been well articulated in an article in The Print, published in March 2020 commemorating 50 years of the treaty. It says that the NPT “spent the first half of the 50 years living a lie, and the second half witnessing its own dangerous demise. It is hazardous to continue to believe it will be effective in preventing

nuclear war, and the sooner the world moves on to other ways to secure itself, the better.”

Today, the world is at a crossroads. To quote US-based think tank the Council on Foreign Relations, “the benefits of the US-led order and, in particular, the many international agreements that the US has championed to open up the world to the free flow of goods, services, ideas, and people no longer look so promising—not least to the many Americans whose livelihoods have suffered as a consequence.”

The post-Cold War order imposed by the US also faces challenges. The liberal order is decaying where multilateral approach to solving problems has been replaced by narrow nationalism. The unequal benefits of globalisation have accentuated the north-south divide. Today, the centres of economic and military powers are shifting. The lone superpower is having its status challenged, with its main contender enlarging its footprint not only beyond its region, but much beyond into other continents. But be that as it may, experts opine that although the world is likely to see more competition, the logic of major power cooperation remains overwhelming, thus reducing the chance of conflagration between major powers.

What the last 75 years have demonstrated is that no order can be dictated, much less imposed, on others. When that happens, that order is bound to be challenged and violated, as we are seeing today. A rules-based world order must be a collaborative arrangement, and no country, big or small, should be allowed to abuse it by flaunting its military or economic clout.

Pain and anger in Sri Lanka



THE OVERTON WINDOW

Fresh Omar Jamal is an assistant editor at The Daily Star. His Twitter handle is: @FreshOmarJamal

ERESH OMAR JAMAL

SRI LANKA is known as the country of smiling people because of their friendliness. But recently, the island nation has been experiencing an explosion of pain and anger. An unprecedented economic crisis has been sweeping across Sri Lanka, and although signs of it started to emerge in 2019, not many foresaw back then how badly and quickly things would deteriorate.

The Sri Lankan government is running low on foreign currency. Over the last two years or so, it has exhausted over 70 percent of its foreign reserves and now is only left with USD 2 billion, while it has a whopping USD 7 billion in debt due in 2022. As a result, the country has been unable to pay for essential imports such as fuel, food items and other critical products.

Things have gotten so bad that, on April 5, 2022, Sri Lanka’s top medical body declared a public health emergency due to a scarcity of medicines and equipment in the country. That means the state healthcare facilities, which a majority of Sri Lankans depend on, will now only prioritise emergency and urgent care services. People are being forced to withstand rolling blackouts for up to 13 hours a day due to fuel shortage. Retail inflation is estimated to have crossed 17.5 percent, and that’s not even the worst of it. According to reports, food inflation has risen over 25 percent, leading to a steep rise in food prices.

On the surface, it is obvious that the island nation has experienced a series of bad luck. In 2019, its economy took a big hit because of the Easter bombings. The Covid-19 pandemic followed next year, devastating its lucrative tourism industry and its foreign workers’ remittances.

Sri Lanka also undertook a number of megaprojects, many of which were not viable and were expected to give returns at much later dates. A number of these projects were financed through borrowing—from other countries or international organisations—which put added repayment pressure on the country.

Finally, as the shroud of the pandemic started to be lifted off of the global economy, the Russia-Ukraine war and its resulting destabilisation of global trade, currencies and commodity prices have dealt a knockout blow to Sri Lanka’s already feeble economy.

Most, if not all, of these occurrences can be considered as “black swan” events—unpredictable events that are beyond what is normally expected of a situation and have potentially severe consequences. And this does give some legitimacy to the idea that the crisis in Sri Lanka is the culmination of a number of unfortunate and unforeseeable incidents, thereby excusing its policymakers from some of the blame. Why, then, is there so much anger in Sri Lanka?

On March 31, 2022, more than 1,500 people protested outside President Gotabaya Rajapaksa’s private residence. Among the slogans they shouted was one asking him to quit. Others included “Prosperity for rulers while hardship for people,” and “Country is for all and not for one family.” Later, a section of the crowd attempted to break through the barricade before the president’s private residence, leading to the police cracking down on them.

Incidents of violence became more frequent as the government imposed a 36-hour curfew on April 2, deployed troops backed with sweeping new powers under a state of emergency to quell protests against the president and his relatives, and forced a social media blackout. But even as hundreds of people continued to get arrested for peacefully demonstrating, that did not stop thousands more from taking to the streets, ignoring the curfew.

This anger is partly driven by just how bad things have gotten for ordinary people, while partly driven by years of frustration. Through this demonstration of anger, the Sri Lankan people are expressing their refusal to be taken for fools. Because, despite the external factors that have affected Sri Lanka’s economy, its policymakers are not completely blameless, and people recognise that.

For years, Sri Lankan policymakers have refused to prioritise diversifying the country’s export basket through proper policies and support. Its overdependence on only two major export items—similar to Bangladesh—is what cost Sri Lanka so dearly. As exports slumped, Sri Lanka’s forex reserves nosedived, which made it increasingly difficult for it to import essential items; consequently, its currency suffered through massive instability and prices continued getting pushed out of control.

Sri Lanka also undertook a number of megaprojects, many of which were not viable and were expected to give returns at much later dates. A number of these projects were financed through borrowing—from other countries or international organisations—which put added repayment pressure on the country. Additionally, corruption and nepotism became widespread in Sri Lankan politics. As family-based politics came to dominate the overall national politics, people’s resentment towards the political class grew. The political class became increasingly distant from the ordinary people, which made it more difficult for them to recognise the clear warnings that were sent out by both the experts and the people. As a result, some of the major policies that the government adopted, such as slashing taxes and pursuing fully organic farming, were not feasible—they were taken to quickly appease the masses, not to address the root problems.

As tragic as what’s been happening in Sri Lanka is, there is a great lesson in it for Bangladesh. Many of the problems that have brought the Sri Lankan economy to its knees are also present in our country. And for the policymakers and people who might be thinking, “What’s the worst that could happen if we continue to leave ourselves vulnerable to external shocks and forces?”—the present economic suffering and civil strife in Sri Lanka should serve as a clear reminder that it’s best not to try our luck and find the answer to that through first-hand experience.



COLLAGE: KAZI AKIB BIN ASAD

OPINION

Why it’s okay to forget the books you read

While reading Chinua Achebe’s *Things Fall Apart* (1958), I remember feeling that the Nigerian novelist had mastered the English language—the language of the colonialists. I was reminded of Shakespeare’s “The Tempest”, particularly the character Caliban, who tells his master Prospero, “You taught me language, and my profit on’t is I know how to curse.”

NOORA SHAMSI BAHAR

What makes them my favourites, if I can’t remember the names of the engrossing characters or the details of the intricate plots in some of my “favourite” books? Is something wrong with me? Is that faculty of my brain which stores and retrieves information faulty? Am I showing early signs of Alzheimer’s or Dementia? Do I really even like reading? Am I not reading “properly” enough?

Sir Francis Bacon, an English philosopher, once wrote: “Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested.” Does this mean that I only “taste” books while reading and then spit them out soon after they go into my bookshelf? Am I simply a taster and not a digester?

I’ve come to realise that this is not a “problem” unique to myself and is in fact, quite common. I realise that in this digital era, with easy access to the internet and therefore, with information at my fingertips, I don’t really have to have total/perfect recall. For example, I knew Bacon wrote something about books, so I simply used the search words “Francis Bacon on books” on Google, and voila, I had the essay from which I took the aforementioned quote. Siegfried Sassoon, a World War I poet, stated that “it is humanly certain that most of us remember very little of what we have read” and so, I’ve learned to forgive myself for forgetting, for I’m just an ordinary human.

With this realisation, one may ask, what’s the point of reading, if I am going to forget most of it anyway? The answer is pretty simple. One shouldn’t read to remember; rather, one should read for the experience

of reading. We tend to prioritise recalling over experiencing. I can recall the different emotions I felt and the realisations I came to while reading the books I’ve read, with each experience different from the other.

While reading Chinua Achebe’s *Things Fall Apart* (1958), I remember feeling that the Nigerian novelist had mastered the English language—the language of the colonialists. I was reminded of Shakespeare’s “The Tempest”, particularly the character Caliban, who tells his master Prospero, “You taught me language, and my profit on’t is I know how to curse.” I remember feeling that Achebe had symbolically used the coloniser’s tools to dismantle the master’s house through his tale, which is aimed at the Western reader, and yet, at the same time, he was successful in portraying the African experience in English while preserving African authenticity, which by the way, is neither faultless nor idyllic.

Things Fall Apart is a masterpiece that allowed me to perceive the African people unlike the way white authors such as Joseph Conrad (through his *Heart of Darkness*) portrays them (in a racist, reductionist, stereotypical manner), thereby offering me the chance to see them through an alternate, non-colonial, authentic lens. I know the novel’s name came from WB Yeats’s poem, “The Second Coming” and while the poem is about the anti-Christ and the anarchy that he brings with him, the book is about colonisation and the consequent collapse of the Igbo society. The disintegration of values, customs, traditions, relationships, etc. of the Igbo people is also a result of internal flaws within that society, which Achebe didn’t shy away from exposing. I remember feeling

that the author was just as critical of the colonisers as he was of his own people and I couldn’t help but marvel at his objectivity. I remember making a connection between Achebe’s novel and Shirley Jackson’s unsettling short story, “The Lottery” because both texts have characters who question rituals such as human sacrifice, and both texts also have characters who cannot accept change. Lastly, I remember understanding the concept of cultural hegemony, where the white man did not need to resort to brute force to colonise the Igbo people in Achebe’s novel; rather, colonisation came about through the latter’s consent.

The reader of this essay may think that I remember a lot from reading the novel, but I cannot write another word unless I re-read the book again. I don’t remember a single character’s name or the relationships between characters and tribes, and I don’t remember most of the flaws in the Igbo society that led to its demise when the British came into the picture. However, my experience of reading a book by an African author changed me in more ways than one. I got a glimpse of a culture and a people completely foreign to me, I made connections with other texts that I had read, and I understood theories that I had studied but could not apply until I read the novel.

I believe that even if you remember nothing but a certain intense, raw emotion that you felt while reading a book, you have a valid reason to pick up another book and continue to experience the joys of reading.

Noora Shamsi Bahar is a writer, translator, and Senior Lecturer at the Department of English and Modern Languages, North South University.

BOOK REVIEW: GRAPHIC FICTION

Jokes, rhymes, and the depths of relationships

ISRAR HASAN

One of the most searing scenes in Lee Lai’s magnificent graphic novel, *Stone Fruit* (Fantagraphics, 2021) is when a young child, Nessie, springs into action, morphing into a feral-like creature alongside her aunt, Ray, and her girlfriend, Bron singing, jumping, and frolicking into a world of their own imagination. What begins as a rather sweet opening turns into a troubling and intensely passionate tale of what constitutes a relationship—romantic and familial—and the tension it generates between the self and one’s relation to the world.

Stone Fruit delves into the minutiae of formations, transitions, transformations, and deformations of relationships. The graphic novel revolves around an inter-racial queer couple, Bron and Ray, who struggle with their relationship and with fighting the demons generated by their respective families. The most heartwarming moment they share in the entire novel is when Nessie, Ray’s niece, shows up to brighten up Bron’s and Ray’s lukewarm existence into a vibrant symphony of jokes, gags, and rhymes. Behind the scenes, Ray struggles with her sister, Amanda, a single mother who is unable to accept her sister’s relationship with Bron, and her own relationship with Nessie’s father, who abandoned them. Bron on the other hand—assumed to be trans—is looking for closure with her homophobic white Christian family. With Bron’s

sudden withdrawal on account of their depression, Ray feels pangs of rejection and gradual distancing, which further creates a rift between the couple.

With Bron’s absence, Ray feels drawn to the coldest comfort on her side, Amanda, with whom she has a strained relationship and whose communication is hinged on taking care of little Nessie while Amanda remains at work. A cycle of examination of each character’s ties with their own desires and expectations, alongside the deeply paradoxical nature of what it means to love and be loved, pulls one closer to the characters and their well-spring of emotional turmoil. In order to balance the rifts of the heart, the characters are forced not to confront each other, but with their inner voices lurking within.

Lee Lai’s artwork is finely drawn in a monochromatic fashion, with shades of blue and white. The artwork progresses gracefully, with alternately emotive and climactic scenes of intimate soliloquies. *Stone Fruit* is a painful, heartwarming, and deeply meditative read which makes a demand of you as a reader to reflect on the relationships that sustain us. Taking a close, hardened look at the relationships of the female characters without woolly-eyed idealism, it compels us to look into our own lives with an empathetic, self-reflective glance.

Israr Hasan is a Senior Research Assistant at BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health.



PHOTO: FANTAGRAPHICS

INTERVIEW

Carole Angier on writing the biography of WG Sebald

Diluting the distinction between documentation and fiction, WG Sebald has introduced a stylistic adjective in his prose fiction, which he refused to be called ‘novels’. They are known as being Sebaldian. Carole Angier, an English biographer who laid out the story of the man always in search of memories through fragments of reality and fantasy, spoke with journalist Ananta Yusuf and Shamsuddoza Sajen, Editor of Commercial Supplements at The Daily Star, about Sebald, his life, and his works.

ANANTA YUSUF AND SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

In *Speak, Silence: In Search of W.G. Sebald* (Bloomsbury, 2021), you write that the author’s British publisher, Christopher MacLehose, was in a dilemma to decide on Sebald’s genre of writing. After writing about his novel and his life for so long, how would you define Sebald’s genre?
Carole Angier (CA): [Sebald] said himself that he just wrote prose, or prose fiction. He rejected the term ‘novel’ because he disliked the creaking apparatus (as he’d say) of plot and dialogue, of getting people in and out of rooms. He was right to reject the term, and if you expect a normal novel when you open a Sebald book, you’ll be disappointed. None follows a normal narrative arc or standard scenes of social interaction. Rather, they take the form of musing and remembering, with long passages of (apparent) digression, all expressed in striking and very beautiful prose. So I would say that they were just prose. And also, certainly, fiction, though they often don’t seem to be that. But that’s an important question we can perhaps come back to.

How did he achieve this balance between fiction and nonfiction?



COLLAGE: MAISHA SYEDA

CA: The fact that his stories are based on real ones, often closely—is unexceptional; all writers use elements from their own experience and that of people they know. It’s the insertion of photographs and documents that makes his characters feel so real. We don’t just imagine them as we read, we see them, we look into their eyes.

It wasn’t wholly original. Stendhal had used maps and drawings in his *Vie de Henri Brulard*, for instance, as Sebald shows in the second part of *Vertigo*. Other French writers like Georges Rodenbach and André Breton had done it, and German ones like Alexander Kluge and Klaus

Thelewit, whose work Sebald knew well and admired. But he was the one who made it famous, who turned it into a known genre between fiction and nonfiction that we call, as you’ve said, Sebaldian, and that many new young writers have followed. Even not so new and young ones, like William Boyd, for instance, in his 2015 novel *Sweet Caress*.

Do you think the urge for freedom helped Max to develop his own style of writing? And how did he come up with this genre which is hard to define except calling it Sebaldian?
CA: That’s a good question! Yes,

I’m sure that his need for freedom inspired most things in his life, both good and bad. Most importantly, it led to his critical thinking, and his inability to accept silence and the cover-up about the war and the Holocaust that dominated his early years. That was, to put it mildly, good. But you can’t be a maverick in just one part of life; you’re either a maverick or not. So for instance, he refused to obey academic rules too—if you rely on some of his footnotes, you’ll be in trouble. And indeed he didn’t obey literary ‘rules’ either, though there aren’t really any rules in literature.

The fact that his stories are based on real ones, often closely—is unexceptional; all writers use elements from their own experience and that of people they know. It’s the insertion of photographs and documents that makes his characters feel so real.

He started his literary writing as the result of a mental crisis that began around the end of the 1970s and beginning of the 1980s. It led him to visit the schizophrenic poet Ernst Herbeck in Vienna, and from there to the journey across

northern Italy to the village of his birth in the Bavarian Alps, which he describes in his first prose book, *Vertigo*. It also led him to the poems he incorporated and developed in *After Nature*, his first published work, and to a screenplay he wrote even before that, in 1979. In all of them, and in the books he wrote later, culminating in *Austerlitz*, he explored his own traumas and mental suffering as well as those of his subjects.

In fact he’d been writing since his schooldays, and had determined to be a writer at the age of 20. But this he never admitted; instead he made it sound as though he turned to writing for the first time in his 40s, in order to escape his academic routine.

Despite what I’ve just said, I think he must have known, at least sometimes and on some level, that it wasn’t true. He said it to protect himself and his privacy, which I’ve invaded in my book. My excuse is that the roots of a great writer’s work are of great interest and even importance; and that once someone is dead, they can no longer mind.

Ananta Yusuf is a journalist at The Daily Star. Shamsuddoza Sajen is the Editor of Commercial Supplements at The Daily Star.

Mashrafe's 4-for leads Legends

SPORTS REPORTER

Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, on a hat-trick, watched the ball zip off the surface but just beat the outside edge of Khelaghar Samaj Kallyan Samity's number 10 batter Noor Alam before going through to the wicket-keeper, leaving the Legends of Rugganj skipper without a hat-trick.

The 38 year-old had scalped three wickets prior to that delivery and only one delivery later, a slower one got the better of Noor, who could only manage to provide a dolly of a catch to mid-wicket to leave Mash with four wickets and Khelaghar bowled out for 198.



Bangladesh team get into a huddle ahead of their first practice session yesterday at Port Elizabeth, where the visitors will take on South Africa in the second Test starting on Friday. (Bottom) Wicketkeeper-batter Liton Das plays a defensive stroke at the nets during the training session.

PHOTO: BCB

Donald warns of 'wind tunnel'

SPORTS REPORTER

Following a crushing 220-run defeat in the first Test, Bangladesh trained at St George's Park in Port Elizabeth ahead of their second and final Test against South Africa yesterday.

The Tigers have never played a Test at the venue, but the South African members of their coaching staff have vast knowledge of the ground, especially head coach Russell Domingo, who coached the Warriors side that used the venue as their home ground.

According to Bangladesh's fast-bowling coach Allan Donald, the visiting pacers will have to be creative and brave to get the most out of a surface that he believes offers something to both batters and bowlers.

"This is one of the oldest Test venues in South Africa and I have some fond memories of this ground. It's the kind of wicket where you are never in or out as a batsman or bowler. There's always



It's like a wind tunnel goes through the scoreboard and across the field and it keeps swirling. You almost feel like you are with it and, all of a sudden, you're against the wind.

something happening. This is also a ground where you have to be very creative as a bowler. As the innings goes on, the track gets flatter. So, from a fast bowling perspective, you always have to have

something up your sleeve. You have to put your hands up and be brave," Donald told media yesterday.

Pacers Taskin Ahmed and Shoriful Islam have returned to Bangladesh after suffering injuries, so the team management will need to make some tough calls in forming a balanced playing eleven. On a more positive note, the experienced Tamim Iqbal, who missed the first Test due to an upset stomach, is expected to take part in the second Test.

"It's one of those Test grounds where you can hit a big hundred if you settle in.

Dale Steyn showed here a few years ago against Australia on a flat pitch when the ball started to reverse swing. He was coming in and attacking with a creative mindset and that's how you can take wickets here. It's going to be tough work but it's a wonderful, traditional ground and I always love playing in front of the crowd and I expect it will be a bit noisy."

Known as the windy city, Port Elizabeth poses a tough challenge to visitors, especially in terms of adjusting to the strong winds.

"One thing you need to contend with in Port Elizabeth is the wind that comes in at sort of 12:30 to 2:00pm. We have been talking about this as a group and catching high balls is a real skill here. We have to do a lot of spiral and long catching and know which side of the ground we're on because the wind traditionally flows from the scoreboard area. Late in the afternoon the wind can get up to 40-45 kmph and you have to deal with that.

"It's like a wind tunnel goes through the scoreboard and across the field and it keeps swirling. You almost feel like you are with it and, all of a sudden, you're against the wind. The wind continues to swirl so we need to focus a lot on our fielding today (Wednesday), do high catching and practice getting into correct positions. Someone has to bowl against the wind while another will have to bowl with the wind. It's going to be tough work," he said.

Donald also praised the efforts from the pace unit in the first Test, saying he was impressed by Taskin's hunger and was pleased to see the hunger from him to give his best despite battling pain.

'Root still the right man to lead England'

REUTERS, New Delhi



England's record of one win in their last 17 tests is clearly not good enough but Joe Root is still the right man to skipper the side, former bowler Darren Gough told Reuters.

Root has come under pressure after England slumped to a 4-0 defeat in the last Ashes series and lost 1-0 in West Indies, with former captains Michael Atherton and Nasser Hussain among those saying it was time for a leadership change. Since taking charge in 2017, Root has led the side in a record 64 tests. His 27 wins and 26 defeats as captain are also records.

Gough, who had a stint as England's fast bowling consultant in 2019, said Root enjoyed the utmost respect of players in the dressing room and that there was no clear "natural successor".

"If you're looking at results alone, one win in 17 is not good enough, of course," Gough said.

"But having been in the England dressing room, I can assure you that he's so well respected by every single player in that team. He's the natural captain." "If we had someone that was really putting their hands up and saying, 'I'm your natural successor', you could make an argument for a change," Gough said.

"But I honestly believe Joe Root is still the right man for the job at this moment in time. I don't think it's time for Ben Stokes to take over.

Koeman to return to Netherlands job

AFP, The Hague



Former Barcelona coach Ronald Koeman will take over as Netherlands boss from Louis van Gaal after this year's World Cup, the Dutch football federation said on Wednesday.

Van Gaal announced at the weekend that he had been receiving treatment for prostate cancer for the last two years but that he still hoped to lead the team at the finals that kick off in Qatar in November.

It will be 59-year-old Koeman's second time in charge of the Dutch national team after taking the reins from 2018 to 2020, when he left the post to become coach of Barcelona.

He was dismissed by the Spanish giants in October last year after 14 difficult months in charge which included the departure of Lionel Messi to Paris Saint-Germain as the club plunged into financial difficulties.

"I am looking forward to working together again. When I left the national team a year and a half ago, it was certainly not because I wasn't happy," Koeman said.

Marianne van Leeuwen, the director of professional football at the Dutch federation, said: "We're very happy that Ronald is coming back next year. During his last term in charge as national coach, his work and his results were very satisfying."

The Netherlands will play the opening match of the World Cup against Senegal. They also have the host nation and Ecuador in their Group A.

Klopp praises Benfica keeper Guardiola says City must keep their cool

REUTERS

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp heaped praise on Benfica keeper Odysseas Vlachodimos for denying the English side a bigger victory after their 3-1 win in their Champions League quarter-final first leg on Tuesday.

Liverpool took the upper hand in the tie as goals from Ibrahima Konate, Sadio Mane and Luis Diaz earned them a comfortable victory in Lisbon and it could have been much worse for the Portuguese club.

"We should have scored much more," Klopp told BT Sport. "I think, mainly because of their goalkeeper, credit to him. Their goalkeeper was probably the game's best player. We played well, but he made a couple of really good saves."

Klopp said he was satisfied with the win and with their two-goal advantage ahead of next week's second leg at Anfield.

"It was a tough game but I expected it," Klopp said. "They had these counter-attacks as they recovered the ball in the midfield that was a threat. It's not always easy to keep the ball all the time. The further you go, the more risk you take. And they have really good players."



(L) Liverpool's Colombian midfielder Luis Diaz celebrates after scoring his team's third goal during their 3-1 victory against Benfica in the Champions League quarterfinal first leg match at the Luz stadium in Lisbon on Tuesday. (R) Kevin de Bruyne scored the only goal for Manchester City in their 1-0 win over Atletico Madrid at the Etihad Stadium.

PHOTO: AFP/REUTERS



After Liverpool dominated the first half, Benfica made a game of it after the break at a packed Luz stadium, that roared their team back into the contest when Darwin Nunez scored in the 49th minute to make it 2-1.

"It was tough when they scored because

the crowd was there immediately because they knew that 2-0 is nothing, it's nice but nothing more than that and we saw it after they scored. The game was much more open than we expected.

"That's it. We won. Two goals up. Halftime. Not more, not less. It would

have been nice to score another one, but let's keep going. We have a good result, we know much more about our opponent going to the second game and are aware of their quality."

Meanwhile, Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola called on his players to

control their emotions in their Champions League quarter-final return leg at Atletico Madrid next week.

Kevin De Bruyne's 70th minute goal earned City a 1-0 win on Tuesday in a game that had several flashpoints, including an incident in which a prone Jack Grealish was struck in the head from close range by a clearance from Angel Correa. Read full story "We have to control our emotions and do what we have to do," Guardiola told reporters after Tuesday's game. "There will be a referee there and we have to play our game."

"(Atletico) have faced this kind of knockout stages many times and it will be a good test for us with our maturity in this game. Jack reacted really well and stayed focused on what we needed to do."

The Spaniard added that City would not simply look to defend their 1-0 advantage in Madrid and would be looking to kill off the tie.

"We've won the game with 1-0 and after 1-0 it was a little bit different. All the players start to press a little bit higher," Guardiola said. "If the game starts on the good side for Atletico, maybe they come back in to the game."



Khaleda home after tests in hospital

Her doctor says she needs treatment abroad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is sick and the decision of her further hospitalisation would be taken after receiving her latest medical tests' reports, said doctors.

Khaleda's physician AZM Zahid Hossain yesterday said the 76-year-old former premier needed to be taken abroad for better treatment.

He made the statement after Khaleda's check-ups were done in the capital's Evercare Hospital.

"Following the advice of the medical board, Khaleda Zia was taken to the hospital. All the necessary tests including heart, kidney, liver and other tests were performed. After getting the reports, the next step would be taken," he told journalists.

Zahid said that the medical board again

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After her condition worsened, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia was taken to Evercare Hospital for some tests yesterday morning. Whether she would be admitted to hospital will be known once the results are received.

PHOTO: BNP

Lanka president won't resign

Says his govt's whip as parliament Speaker warns crippling economic crisis risks starvation

AGENCIES

Sri Lanka's President Gotabaya Rajapaksa will not resign, his government's whip said yesterday, despite demonstrations against his handling of the country's worst economic crisis in decades and as doctors held street protests over a shortage of medicine.

Rajapaksa, governing the country since 2019 with other family members in top positions, revoked a state of emergency late on Tuesday after five days as dozens of lawmakers walked out of the ruling coalition, leaving his government in a minority.

The debt-laden country has been struggling to pay for imports due to a shortage of foreign exchange.

Sri Lankans have been suffering from shortages of fuel, power, food, drugs and other items for weeks, and doctors say the entire health system could collapse.

Street protests began a month ago and have intensified in recent days, with people openly defying the emergency and a weekend curfew to demand the ouster of Rajapaksa.

"May I remind you that 6.9 million people voted for the president," Chief Government Whip Johnston Fernando said in parliament in response to criticism from the opposition and cries of "Go home Gota".

"As a government, we are clearly saying the president will not resign under any circumstances. We will face this."

The Speaker of parliament warned yesterday that Sri

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His stance against illegal activities got him killed

Rab says on Sohel Chowdhury murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Film star Sohel Chowdhury's strong stance against anti-social activities in Trumps Club in Banani and his subsequent feud with businessman Aziz Mohammad Bhui led to his murder 24 years ago, according to the charge sheet of the case filed after the murder.

The sensational murder in front of the club on December 18, 1998, came to fore again on Tuesday after Rab arrested Ashish Rai Chowdhury, one of the accused.

After investigation, the Detective Branch of police pressed charges against Aziz, the club's co-owners Ashish and Afqul Islam also known as Bunty Islam, and suspects Sanjidul Hasan Emon and Harun Ur Rashid also known as Leather Liton and four others on

July 30, 1999.

The charge sheet mentioned that Bunty and Ashish started anti-social activities – alcohol consumption and inappropriate dance shows – in the club which was near Banani Jame Masjid.

"Sohel Chowdhury along with people of the mosque management committee tried to shut the club down, but failed," said the charge sheet.

Sohel on July 24, 1998, had a brawl with Aziz. He also had tussles with Bunty and Ashish at the club. The charge sheet

further said Bunty and Ashish had threatened Sohel Chowdhury.

On the day he was killed, Sohel wanted to get into the club but he was barred. Around 3:00am, he tried again when the accused and their hitmen killed Sohel, the charge sheet read.

Khandaker Al Moin, Rab's legal and media wing director,

at a press conference yesterday, claimed that the club became a den for criminals. Aziz, a relative of Bunty, frequented there and became friends with Ashish, said the Rab officer.

He claimed that Sohel the mosque management committee's moves became obstacles for Aziz.

After the July 24 brawl with Sohel, Aziz asked Bunty and Ashish to take revenge, he added.

Aziz, Bunty, and Ashish hired club regular and listed criminal Emon to kill Sohel. Emon then killed Sohel, Rab said.

Rab said Ashish, who had never been arrested in the case, planned to flee to Canada after a Dhaka court recently issued an arrest warrant for him.

Ashish, also a Canadian, wanted to fly to Canada today but deferred his flight to April 22.

Replying to a query, Moin said Rab arrested him with 27 bottles of liquor after receiving a copy of the arrest warrant issued against him and five others on February 27.

The other five are in different countries, including the US,

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'MASSACRE' IN UKRAINE'S BUCHA India's FM calls for 'independent' probe

China calls it 'deeply disturbing'; US sanctions Russian banks, Putin's daughters

AGENCIES

India's foreign minister said yesterday he was "deeply disturbed" by civilian deaths in the Ukrainian city of Bucha but stopped short of blaming Russia, calling for an independent probe.

New Delhi has historically close ties with Moscow and has refrained from condemning its invasion of its ex-Soviet neighbour, abstaining in several UN votes and hosting Russia's foreign minister for talks in India last week.

The discovery of hundreds of civilians found dead in areas from which Russian troops have withdrawn has sparked global outrage, with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky describing them as "war crimes" and "genocide".

Foreign Minister S Jaishankar told parliament yesterday that India was "deeply disturbed" and "strongly condemned the killings".

"This is an extremely serious matter and we support the call for an independent investigation," he added.

The Kremlin has said that the images were fakes produced by the Ukrainian army or that the deaths occurred after its soldiers pulled out.

China also called reports of civilian deaths in Bucha "deeply disturbing". Foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said any "accusations should be based on facts" as he said any humanitarian situation should not be "politicised".

"Before the investigation results are

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PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

A man readies iftar plates for the poor on the High Court Mazaar premises in the capital yesterday afternoon. Every year in the month of Ramadan, the Mazaar authorities arrange free iftar for the poor and desolate. The food is arranged through donations and thousands of people come here to break their fast every day.

Teacher in jail, family in fear

Wife says he is a victim of conspiracy

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

Family members of Hriday Chandra Mondal, the Munshiganj school teacher now behind bars in a case over demeaning religion, are passing days in panic.

Even his son has stopped going to school because of social harassment.

"My son cannot go to school. Other students tease him – they call him the son of a criminal. So I have stopped sending him to school," said Hriday's wife Babita Hawlader.

"Even some of our neighbours often hurl abuse at us. We are passing days in fear and insecurity." Babita's elder brother Badal Hawlader said, "We have almost been ostracised. We don't go out during daytime in fear of untoward incidents."

Hriday has been teaching in the school for 21 years, and all these years, not a single complaint was filed against him, he said.

On March 20, Hriday, assistant teacher of Binodpur Ram Kumar High School in Munshiganj, was having a conversation with students about the difference between science and religion.

Later in the afternoon, a group of students filed a written complaint with the head teacher, alleging that Hriday made derogatory comments on Islam.

On March 22, some students staged a demonstration and police detained Hriday. That

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Tipu's aide hired hitman, armed him

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

An aide of Awami League leader Jahidul Islam Tipu hired the hitman and gave him a gun to have Tipu assassinated, according to the confessional statement of hitman Masum Mohammad Akash.

Shamim Hossain, 37, also took Akash to different places in a motorcycle for two consecutive days before the attack on Tipu, former general secretary of Motijheel AL.

Shamim, who is now on the run, used to participate in all political programmes attended by Tipu.

Detectives came up with the information after analysing Akash's confessional statement. Akash gave the statement before a Dhaka court on Tuesday after his seven-day remand.

Investigators said Shamim's brother-in-law Md Sony is a businessperson and has two buildings – one in Shantinagar and another in Kamalapur.

Recently, Sony became paralysed following a stroke. Shamim now collects rent from the buildings and also looks after his business.

In the statement, Akash told the court that Shamim is his friend.

Completing a diploma in graphic design, Akash worked in a restaurant. He was also involved in the cable business.

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Rejoinder and our reply

Paramount Holdings Limited on 31 March sent a rejoinder to our report "Of coercion and collusion" published on 27 March. We are publishing the full unedited rejoinder signed by Robiul Islam FCS, company secretary, along with our reply.

Paramount Holdings Limited as the local arranger & developer of DSEPL [Dynamic Sun Energy Private Ltd] purchased around 139 acres of nonagricultural land through legal process and register deeds & documents are available. It may be mentioned here that this process was started more than three years ago to facilitate our government's renewable green energy pledge, however due to the Covid-19 pandemic, things were on hold for

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